



Post-MYC Sermon Series // 321 Challenge Night

WEEK 1 // OCT 24: ENDS OF THE EARTH // Reaching the UNREACHED around the world.

WEEK 2 // OCT 31: JUDEA & SAMARIA // WITNESSING to our state and nation.

WEEK 3 // NOV 7: YOUR JERUSALEM // Becoming a WITNESS where you are right now.

WEEK 4 // NOV 14: CELEBRATE // 321 Challenge Night!

STL Fundraising Ideas // Ideas for students to raise money throughout the month & Ideas for Youth Pastors to visually help students set goals for the 321 Challenge

321 Challenge Cards // Print these cards and pass out to students to help track the goals for the 321 Challenge.

WEEK 1 // OCT 24: ENDS OF THE EARTH

NOTE // We are using a visual to help students see how great the need is for spreading The Gospel. My recommendation is to purchase at least 2 bags of plain M&Ms. I plan on purchasing 7, 1 to open and 6 to represent churches. Open one and count out how many M&Ms there are. You want the number you have to equal the numbers you use when discussing how many fast food chains are in the US, so adjust which fast food chains you pick to equal the number of M&Ms in your bag. Most bags have close to 57 individual M&Ms and all the restaurants included equal 63.

MESSAGE OUTLINE //

• ME

- Have you ever had a craving for a certain fast food but there isn't a location close enough for you to go and get something? What are some of your favorite places to fulfill your cravings? Did you know that every day, McDonalds serves 1% of the world's population? They sell 75 hamburgers every second. In a survey done in 1995 by the Sponsorship Research International, the McDonalds golden arches were more globally recognizable than the Christian cross.
- Fast food chains are a huge part of our world. I want to show you how many of each fast food chain there are in the USA. We are going to pretend that 1 M&M equals 1,000 of whatever we are talking about. (This is where you need to recount out M&Ms. Use whatever combination of restaurants to equal the number of M&Ms in your bag.)
 - 6 M&Ms would equal how many Taco Bells there are in the US / 12 M&Ms would equal how many Starbucks are in the US / 14 M&Ms would equal how many McDonalds there are / And it would take 26 M&Ms to show how many Subways are in the US / NOW if you added all of those M&Ms up, you roughly have how many come in 1 bag. It would take 6 bags of M&Ms to equal how many churches there are in the US (300,000-350,000). There are 6 times as many churches in the US as all of those fast food chains combined.
- Now when you hear a statistic like that, it might seem like we are doing enough. That we don't need more churches or that we don't really need to worry about telling more people about Jesus. But if we wanted to show how many M&Ms it would take to equal the amount of people that do not have a relationship with Jesus in our world, it would take 82,456 bags of M&Ms. And remember each individual M&M equals 1,000 people.

• WE

- There is so much work yet to be done in our world. Every person in this room knows someone who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus.
- According to the Joshua project there are 16,543 distinct people groups in our world, and 6,701 of those groups are considered unreached people groups. "Unreached" means less than 2% of the people in that group are Christian.
- It can be easy to drive around in the US and see another church on every other corner and get the feeling that we don't need to do any more. BUT when considering the statistics on Unreached People Groups, it is clear that there is much more that needs to be done.

• GOD

- If you had the chance to go to Minnesota Youth Convention last week, our theme was WITNESS. Over the next few weeks we are going to look at a verse in the bible that was the last thing Jesus said to his followers before ascending into heaven.
- Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- Jesus told the disciples that they are his witnesses. They were witnesses of all that Jesus did, including his death and resurrection. They were supposed to tell everyone of what they had seen. They weren't just supposed to tell their friends, or their family, or the people they ran into on the street. They were supposed to tell everyone they encountered, and when they were done with that, they were supposed to go out into the world and find more and more people to tell. They were supposed to travel as far as they possibly could telling people about what they had witnessed.
- **YOU**
 - You and I have been instructed to do the same thing. Our job is to be witnesses of Jesus. Now, we didn't have the chance to see Jesus and all the things that he did physically like the disciples did, but we have seen Jesus do things in our lives.
 - Acts 5:32 tells us that the Holy Spirit is a witness to Jesus, and that those who obey God are given the Holy Spirit, so we have a witness to Jesus living inside of us.
 - We can share with people the ways that we have seen Jesus move in our lives or in the lives of others. We are still witnesses of what Jesus is doing, and we are called to share that with anyone we come in contact.
 - We are called, just like the apostles, to travel as far as we possibly can to tell people about what Jesus has done in our lives, and what he did on the cross to save all of humanity.
- **WE**
 - Some of you may have the opportunity to travel to other countries and share first-hand about what Jesus has done in your life. Others might not have that opportunity. But we all have the opportunity to help share what God has done by giving to Speed The Light. When we give to STL, we are providing a way for missionaries to be a witness of what God has done.
 - It has been proven that giving \$1 can help anywhere from 1-5 people come to know Jesus. Even though we can't necessarily pack our bags and fly across the world tomorrow, we can give to support someone who is already doing that.
 - We have missionaries across the globe that have been called and commissioned to do just that. We give so our missionaries can travel faster, preach clearer, and be heard louder in order for all to know Jesus.

STL CHALLENGE //

- Set individual goals for what God wants you to sacrifice and raise over the next 4 weeks. Also, how could you specifically reach this goal?

NOTE // *If you want to have your students set goals for the next 4 weeks, do it now. Some students did at MYC, but this will give them the chance to solidify their goals and for students who didn't go to set a goal. There are several ways to help them set goals, but I would encourage you to come up with something visual. I have found spending money on something visual always inspires the students more and we see a huge return on the investment. This year we will purchase bags of original M&Ms and place a white sticker on the front for the students to write their goal on. We may try to print something on the white tag as well. For additional ideas, see the end of this packet)*

WITNESS CHALLENGE //

- Learn more about unreached people groups and choose one or two to pray for over the next 4 weeks. Find out if there are missionaries in those areas you could be praying for as well. EXTRA: Write the missionary an encouraging card if you are able.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS //

1. What country have you always wanted to travel to? (Challenge students to learn about it and pray for it throughout the week)
2. What does it mean to be a witness? How does that pertain to our relationship with Jesus?
3. What are some ways you are going to try to reach your goal?

WEEK 2 // OCT 31: JUDEA & SAMARIA

MESSAGE OUTLINE //

- **ME**

- Have you ever said “yes” to doing something because you thought it was no big deal, then find out that what you committed to was so much bigger than you thought? It’s like telling an older lady in the church that I would help her move “a few boxes,” but when you show up, a few turns into more than 100 boxes and rearranging furniture. The job you thought would take a few hours on Saturday morning turns into a 3-day project. Your eyes get big, your heart sinks, and you don’t know if you can do it alone.
- (If you have a different story or something that fits the idea, insert your story & make it your own!)

- **WE**

- I think if we’re honest, when it comes being a witness and reaching others with the Gospel, it sounds exciting at first, but then the first “no,” the bigness of the need, and the feeling of inadequacy quickly becomes real. How are we supposed to reach the state of Minnesota? How can we make a difference across the United States? It is so much bigger than what we thought...is there any way we can actually make that much of a difference?

- **GOD**

- As we read through our primary verse from this series, Acts 1:8, we read this: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- Tonight we want to focus on our “Judea & Samaria” and the way we interpret that for our specific context is how we can be a witness in Minnesota and throughout the United States. Imagine, in Minnesota, there are more than 5.5 million people – and only half claim to be affiliated as “Christian.” When we look out to the United States as a whole, there are more than 325 million people – and again, only half claim to be affiliated as “Christian.” How can I make that big of a difference? What do I have to offer when the need is so much bigger than I can handle alone?
- There’s a story from the Bible that many of us are familiar with that speaks to this idea, and it’s found in John 6:1-15. Jesus had been teaching a large group of people for quite a while and as the day was ending, he told the disciples, his closest followers, that they needed to feed the group. This was so much bigger than anything they could do alone, and as they spoke up in fear, Jesus asked them a simple question: What do you have?
- The disciples found a boy that was willing to give his lunch – a few small fish and a few biscuits – and Jesus took it, prayed over it, and that day 20,000 or more people ate until they were full. Jesus didn’t say go beg for money or bread, go figure it out – he asked the disciples what they had. When they gave what they had, he took it, multiplied it, and met the need.

- **YOU**

- It’s easy for you to focus on what you don’t have or how there is no way you could do anything to make that big of a difference. And yet, Jesus doesn’t ask what you don’t have or what you can’t do...he asks “What do you have?” What dreams has he placed in your heart? What abilities has he given you? What resources are at your fingertips?
- It’s not about what you don’t have – it’s about what you do with what you have!
- God has placed ideas in your mind, dreams in your heart, and resources in your hands that he will multiply to meet the need for the millions here in Minnesota and across the United States.

- He can't multiply what isn't given to him.
- **WE**
 - Minnesota needs us. Our country needs us. When we work together as a youth group, joining with other youth groups across our state, we can be the difference makers. And God is waiting...he's waiting on us to give what we have to him so that he can pour out his Spirit across this state and across this country.
 - What if we didn't focus on how much we don't have or how much more somebody else can give and we faithfully bring to God what we do have. More important than what we can't raise or can't give is what we do with what we have. There are new churches across our state that are waiting for sound systems to share the Gospel in new communities – and what you do could make the difference!
 - Jesus took a few small sardines and a few biscuits and fed 20,000 people – what could he do with what you give? The only way to find out is trust him and place it in his hands.

STL CHALLENGE //

- In two weeks, we will bring what we have and give – not to a church or to a fund, but to God so that he can multiply it and reach the millions who have yet to hear.
- What can you do this week to use what you have and make a difference? This is your opportunity to shape the future in your life and those across Minnesota and around the United States. Be a witness through your actions and see what God will do!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS //

1. Have you ever said yes to doing something that was bigger than you could do on your own? How did you respond when you saw how big the job was?
2. What does it feel like to accomplish something that you thought was impossible? Share a time when you did that.
3. What stops you from giving of your time, talents, or things?
4. What could God be speaking to you to give or to do over the next two weeks to make a difference, to be a witness?
5. What three friends are you bringing with you to be a part of this?

WEEK 3 // NOV 7: YOUR JERUSALEM

SCRIPTURE // “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ACTS 1:8

MESSAGE OUTLINE //

- **ME**

- Have you ever just thought and wondered, What if I grew up in a different family? What if I had different parents in a different school in a different town? When I was in Middle School I would sometimes think about this. It wasn't that I didn't like my family or life, but I would wonder why God placed me in the life He did. I would ask God, what is my purpose? The more and more I looked at my life, I began to understand that God had written a story for my life that was meant just for me. I was created to be a witness for Him in the life I had been given.
- *(You can also share a story about how you wanted to be someone different or your journey discovering why you were placed where you are in life)*

- **WE**

- Maybe you have daydreamed about being somewhere else or being someone different. Part of that is discovering who you are and letting God develop you into who he wants you to be. We have been talking about being a witness all over the world and reach people through giving. We have looked at making a difference in our country and helping free people from Human Trafficking. Tonight, we bring it home, we focus on our Jerusalem.

- **GOD**

- Our main verse over this series is Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- Tonight, we focus on Jerusalem. For our context, for you tonight that is right here. The town you live in, the school you go to, the family you have grown up in. God has called you to be witness, to share what you have seen Him do in your life in these areas:

1. YOUR FAMILY:

- a. One of the hardest places sometimes to be a witness for Christ is in your own family. They see the real you all the time. You are who you are the most when you are at home. But God has put you in your family to be a light.
- b. No matter how your family is made up (Both parents, separated, foster, etc.) you have a chance to be an example for them to see Jesus in you. Each day is a chance for them to see how God is working and changing you!
- c. One of the best ways to be a witness in your family is to be patient and forgiving – Read Colossians 3:13
- d. If you have family who don't know Jesus, realize God can use you to show them His love and forgiveness

2. YOUR FRIENDS:

- a. Another place God has called you to be a witness is with the friends you hang out with. Whether you are hanging out playing video games, shopping at the mall, doing homework or going to school together, God has put specific people in your life for you to reach with His love and hope.

- b. How often do you pray for your friends to know Jesus? Do you have consistent list of friends that you are believing God to work in their lives? If not start tonight praying for 1, 2, 3 of your friends to come to know Jesus and don't stop until God works in them!
- c. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 – God has placed you in peoples' lives to help them.
- d. One of the places you spend the most time with your friends is at school. We need to care about everyone at our school. What would happen if you started praying for that teacher who really bugs you or praying for that lunch table who always seems to be the one who causes trouble or no one else talks to.
- e. Being a witness is all about having a heart for people. Ask God to give you a heart for the people you spend time with each and every day!
- f. John 3:16 reminds us that God loves the whole world. Those far away and those we share the same house and school with.

- **YOU**

- The question tonight is how are you reaching your Jerusalem? How are you being a witness to your family? Your Friends? Your School?
- God has you right where He wants to use you. It's up to you if will act upon that. You can do that through your giving and through your actions starting right when you get home tonight from church.

- **WE**

- *(This is the final challenge before next week. Make it personal and include both challenges.)*

STL CHALLENGE //

- Next Week we are going to give together across this state so that others have the chance to witness who Jesus is and how amazing His love is. What if this week you and a friend did a one-week challenge to see who could raise the most money in 7 days to bring clean water to Africa or Free people from Human Trafficking? Find a friend or a family member and see what you can do together! Or maybe challenge your lunch table to donate one week's worth of lunch money to help others in need. There are lots of ideas – just make sure to do something!
- It's not too late to do something and it's not too late to give. Make sure to bring your offering next week and let God show you, through you, how much He loves the world.

WITNESS CHALLENGE //

- Next week we will be giving together, but we will also have a party! We are going to celebrate what God can do through students and leaders! We are going to make next week a party!!! Invite the friends you will be praying for this week to come to church with you. We will give, but there will also be a chance for your friend to accept Jesus. We want to see God change the world and change your friends' lives!
- *(Close with prayer)*

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS //

6. Have you ever dreamed about being someone else? If you could be anyone, who would it be?
7. What is something you can do this week to be a witness in your family?
8. What three friends will you start praying for now for God to work in their life?
9. Are you ready to give next week? Why or Why not?

WEEK 4 // NOV 14: CELEBRATE

This message is not completed yet. We will email it out to all MYC group leaders next week!

Practical Celebration Ideas //

Last year we did a video monologue with countries and people who had been impacted by our youth group giving to missions and going on missions trips.

In the past we did a stick stomp with some of our leaders if you have anyone that might be rhythmic!

We have also done the entire night in black light before. We gave out glow-sticks to everyone and told our leaders to wear shirts appropriate for black light. We had different numbers spray painted on boxes. These were just cardboard boxes that we painted black and then spray-painted random neon numbers on. When we announced our total, we started with the cents to build it up more.

It looked something like this:



A few things we typically do include:

- Fireworks (you may need to disable your sprinkler system for this—and get fans!)
- Smoke cannons (here's a link to how to build this simple, awesome additions)
<http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/air-cannon-smoke-ring-vortex-launcher>
- Confetti (we just chop up a ton of colored paper and use fans or leaf blowers to dispense it from the top of the room)
- Balloon drop (always fun and easy, you can make your own with a tarp, cheaper than buying one)
- We added toilet paper leaf blowers last year. Here's a link to making them:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFnA7yzDB74>
- Beach balls are great to throw around during celebration time
- If you have access to liquid nitrogen, we made an explosion using the colorful plastic ball-pit balls and it was awesome! Here's a link to the way to do it:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldgp3Ton7R4>
- We try to read off the totals of other youth groups as they come across the chatline
- Loud music (live is always best if possible)
- We have pizza for all the students at the end of the night's celebration
- If you have the Square App- USE IT!! Leaders can give through this.

MAKE THIS NIGHT THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR FOR YOUR STUDENTS!!!

You want it to be something they will remember and look forward to each year.

STL Fundraising Ideas //

Ideas for students to raise money throughout the month:

- Bake Sales
 - Cinnamon Roll / Caramel Roll Breakfast - free will donation
- Strings to Save
 - Make bracelets to sell
- Running
 - Have donors pledge per mile
- STL Business Letter
 - Students type up a letter to hand out to local business owners to see if they'll donate
- Hair / Makeup / Nails
 - Do some type of beauty application for people
- Selling Clothes
 - Plato's Closet, Poshmark, Facebook Market, etc.
- "Night at the River"
 - Put together a talent show for the community for people to purchase tickets and attend, dinner and childcare is covered in that cost
- Hire students out to church members for "chores"
 - Baby-sitting
 - Yardwork
 - Indoor Home Cleaning
- Local Coupon Book
 - Create a coupon book to local businesses. The books are \$20 and we get half of that for STL. They should be easy to sell for junior high students that don't have jobs or cars!
- Christmas Tour
 - Find hosts to decorate their homes and have appetizers/desserts available. Sell tickets for individuals or families to be able to tour the homes and enjoy the treats
- Party Themed Water Bottle Tray

Ideas for Youth Pastors to visually help students set goals for the 321 Challenge:

- (Focused on Human Trafficking) We purchased a large chain and hung it across our stage and placed padlocks with keys on the chain. Each padlock had white electrical tape around it where the students could write their goal. They took the lock home as representation of the freedom they would be purchasing for someone. (Padlocks can be found at dollar stores)
- We used mason jars as a fancy buddy barrel. We had them write their goal on the side of the jar where we had placed tape and then write the goal on the sealing lid as well and turn the lid in to us so we could keep count of the goals.
- We used dominos last year to talk about the cumulative effect of our one goal working together with everyone else's goal to accomplish something larger. We set dominos up and knocked them over in a chain reaction.
- If you buy cases of water, you can put stickers and write specific amounts of money on each water bottle going from \$1-\$100. If you have 100 bottles it should equal \$5,050. Kids can take 1 specific bottle or multiple that add up to their goal.

WITNESS

321 CHALLENGE

Name: _____

321 Challenge Goal: \$ _____

Fundraising Plan: _____

Return this portion of the card to your youth pastor.

WITNESS

MY 321 CHALLENGE GOAL

\$ _____

Keep this portion for yourself

WITNESS

321 CHALLENGE

Name: _____

321 Challenge Goal: \$ _____

Fundraising Plan: _____

Return this portion of the card to your youth pastor.

WITNESS

MY 321 CHALLENGE GOAL

\$ _____

Keep this portion for yourself

WITNESS

321 CHALLENGE

Name: _____

321 Challenge Goal: \$ _____

Fundraising Plan: _____

Return this portion of the card to your youth pastor.

WITNESS

MY 321 CHALLENGE GOAL

\$ _____

Keep this portion for yourself