As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

1. Introduction.
   a. Illustration of familiarity, of doing something known and comfortable.
   b. We can relate to the draw of the comfortable.
   c. The fishermen are doing their job. They are earning a wage and supporting their family.
   d. We can relate to that as well. These are good reasons to work hard. Who would blame them?
   e. Jesus has more in mind for them. He gives them an opportunity to follow Him.

This is not an opportunity for a promotion. This isn’t a chance to open a franchise or start an outpost. This is a never-before-seen, never-again, once-in-a-lifetime sort of opportunity. And Jesus asks them to follow Him. It starts simply, “Come. Follow me”, in a one-foot-in-front-of-the-other sort of way. Once they’re following His footsteps, then He’ll teach them what it means to live in Faith. From faith, they’ll learn to follow in a Freedom they’ve never experienced and can’t help but share.

II. Follow in Footsteps – Focal verse: MT 4:20
   a. “At once”. Immediately, it was an offer to good to refuse. They can’t possibly understand what they’re about to experience, or maybe they wouldn’t be so quick to leave the nets. But there’s something about the proposal that draws them instantly in.
   b. “They left their nets”. They are still fisherman and He’s promised that they will continue to fish, of sorts. But He has no net, so they bring no net with them. The nets they are used to will not live up to the new mission, they are now a thing of yesterday. Besides, they’re going to need their hands-free for what Jesus has in store for them.
   c. “AND followed him”. A great and glorious mission began with a simple step. And then another. One foot behind the next. We can’t do what Jesus does if we aren’t willing to simply walk in His footsteps first. And we certainly can’t follow Him if we aren’t willing to walk wherever His steps have walked. To the sick and lame. To the dead, blind and mute. To the paralyzed and the leprous. To the demon-possessed. To the women and children. To Samaria. To prostitutes and water holes. To Jerusalem and the Temple. To the cross. FROM the tomb.
III. Follow in Faith. – Focal verse: MT 4:22
   a. Illustration about being lost, about triangulation, about cell-phone signal, about a journey, about directions, etc.
   b. God’s call always has two reference points. Where you start and where you are headed. With Abram in Genesis 12, the starting point was Haran and the ending point was “a land I will show you” (v. 1). With Moses, the starting point was the Burning Bush (Exodus 2). With the fishermen, they start in the boat with their nets in their hands. None of them knew what lay ahead, but they each followed in faith, trusting in the voice of He who called them.
   c. “and immediately they left the boat and their father”. We are not only called toward something. We are also called AWAY from something. In the case of the James and John, they were called away from their way of life AND their family. They trusted in the call so much that they were able to walk away from Zebedee and follow this new path. Do we trust that God will take care, not only of us, but of those we are called away from? Who will fish for mom and dad? Who will see that they are fed? Who will take care of Grandma? The One who calls will honor the steps before, during and after the call.

IV. Follow in Freedom. – Focal verse: MT 4:19
   a. Illustration about blessing, surprise, beyond, extra, more, etc.
   b. “AND”. The biggest part of this new call is the promise in this one little word. There’s always more when we’re willing to drop our nets and follow. There’s always a blessing to come, there’s always twelve baskets of leftovers. There’s always more.
   c. There is freedom in our past. The disciples don’t have to reinvent themselves, they only need to see that what they used to do is a lot like what they’re going to do. They don’t have to throw away what they were and become new people. They can continue to be fishermen, though the bait, the boat and the fish have all changed. What matters most is that they understand the mission and feel like they can partake, participate in and accomplish it.
   d. There’s a tremendous freedom in what Jesus says to the disciples. “AND I will send you out to fish for people.” There are no quotas, no geographical fishing spots they have to hit, no methods or limitations. He trusts the knowledge they already have, the faith they choose to follow in and lets them do what they already know how to do.

V. Going on from there.
   a. Does this mean they are “fully-equipped” from Step 1? Not at all.
   b. First, they are invited to walk, to simply follow in the footsteps that will take them all over the world along the path God has for them.
   c. Along that path they will learn to follow in faith and trust that God is calling them to a purpose and a future and will take care of them throughout the journey.
   d. Once you’ve learned to walk in His steps and to follow Him in faith, there’s a deep and Holy freedom that you walk in. The Lord will provide the lamb. The Lord will speak. The Lord will guide your steps, your thoughts, your words and your deeds.
   e. That is discipleship. And it all starts with a step.
   f. Invitation.
STRIKEPOINT SCRIPTURE PRESENTATION
DISCIPLESHIP
Matthew 4:18-22 (New International Version)

This scripture presentation should be presented with the script in notebooks and the Readers’ lines highlighted so they can easily follow along. Please make sure that the two Readers rehearse before presenting this in the service.

ONE:
Follow.

TWO:
Follow Jesus.

ONE:
As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers; Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

TWO:
“Come follow me,”

ONE:
Jesus said,

TWO:
“and I will send you out to fish for people.”

ONE:
At once they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:18-20)

TWO:
Everyone is invited to follow Jesus.

ONE:
No matter what you’ve done.

TWO:
No matter what you haven’t done.

ONE:
No matter who you know –

TWO:
who you don’t know -
ONE:
how much church you had -

TWO:
how much church you didn’t have -

BOTH:
It doesn’t matter.

ONE:
It is an open invitation, no matter what stage of life you are in, to begin the process of following Jesus.

TWO:
It’s an invitation to relationship.

ONE:
It’s not an invitation to church.

TWO:
It’s not an invitation to religion.

ONE:
It’s not an invitation to things you should and shouldn’t do.

TWO:
It really is an invitation to a relationship with an invisible God who revealed himself through his son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

ONE:
*Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets.*

TWO:
*Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.* (Matthew 4:21-22)

ONE:
Follow

TWO:
Follow Jesus.

ONE:
You can follow fearlessly,

TWO:
because He will lead you to a confidence in God that allows us to overcome all kinds of circumstances.

ONE:
But following Jesus will cost you something.
TWO: But no fear. Because when you have to say no to something else to follow Jesus you find out something wonderful about yourself.

ONE: and about your Heavenly Father.

TWO: This is when you discover whose you really are.

ONE: Follow.

BOTH: Follow Jesus.
STRIKEPOINT Week 2: Skilled Leadership
Sermon Outline by Major Young Sung Kim

“The Essence of Christian Leadership: Following Christ's Example
1. Equipped by the Holy Spirit
2. A Leader living on Mission
3. Pursuing God Despite Obstacles


14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. 16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
   because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
   and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
19   to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn't this Joseph's son?” they asked. 23 Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'”

24 “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land, 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy(9) in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.” 28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Introduction:
The message of Luke 4:14-30 is a great reminder from Jesus to His followers that each one of us is God's precious children who are called to His kingdom mission. Doing God's ministry is every Christian's sacred duty and privilege. God needs and wants us to do His Kingdom work through our faithful participation. In this sense, God commissioned every Christian as His co-partners for the Kingdom business.

It is clear that the heart of the lesson from the book of Luke, chapter 4:14-30 shows Christ's example for fulfilling God’s Kingdom Mission while on earth. Through studying Christ’s example in Luke’s text, we will learn the fundamental ways of equipping and enriching the essence of Christian leadership.
I. A Christian leader is a follower of Christ who is equipped by the Holy Spirit.

*Luke 4:14-15*

A. After defeating Satan’s temptation in the wilderness, Jesus returned to Galilee in order to initiate his ministry.

B. Jesus did not advertise himself on a poster on the walls saying “Jesus, the Almighty Son of God is here. Come and see Him!” On the contrary, the Bible simply asserts that Jesus arrived there with the power of the Holy Spirit (v. 14).

C. Jesus prepared and began his ministry based on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The fundamental condition and quality of Christian leadership in doing God’s ministry should be grounded in the power of the Holy Spirit and not by our own agenda or will.

Possible Illustration (or insert your own here):

A young Methodist pastor, Samuel Logan Brengle, had his first interview with General Booth in London for discussing his future officership. In that meeting, the General stated to Samuel: “Brengle, you belong to the dangerous classes. You have been your own boss for so long that I don’t think you will want to submit to Salvation Army discipline. We are an Army, and we demand obedience.”

Can you imagine how Brengle must have felt when he received those words from the General whom he so dearly admired? With only the desire to be a Salvation Army officer, this young pastor had sailed 3,000 miles to England. Brengle not only gave up his promising pastoral position but also left his newly wedded bride at home two days after the wedding.

We need to pay careful attention to Brengle’s response to the General. He said to the Founder, “Well, General, *I have received the Holy Spirit as my Sanctifier and Guide.* I feel He has led me to offer myself to you. Give me a chance.” Listen to how Brengle testified himself to the General! He said: “I have received the Holy Spirit as my Sanctifier and Guide.”

The most important and necessary matter is that we as God’s co-workers need to be equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit as we engage in the battles for kingdom mission.

II. A Christian leader is a follower of Christ who lives on mission for God. *Luke 4:16-21*

A. After initiating his ministry in Galilee, now Jesus went to Nazareth, his home town.

B. Jesus proclaimed his kingdom mission given by God based on Isaiah 61. The text of *Luke 4:18-19* reveals the exact message that Jesus declared as the purpose of His kingdom mission: Jesus said: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners. And recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Transition:
In that sense, all God’s people/Christian leaders are Christ’s healing agents in the power of the Holy Spirit. In that context, all Salvationists can testify that “We are saved to save! We are saved to serve!”

III. The Christian leader is a follower of Christ who pursues God’s will despite obstacles. Luke 4:22-30

A. After hearing Jesus’ kingdom mission message, the Bible indicates in Luke 4:22 that “All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. ‘Isn’t this Joseph’s son?’ they asked.”

B. The people of Nazareth suddenly change their attitude toward Jesus from a positive response to a startlingly negative response. The town people’s hostile reaction fired up at hearing Jesus’ radical perspective about a Gentile (VV. 24-27). He said in verses 24-27: “I tell you the truth,’ he continued, ‘no prophet is accepted in his hometown.’ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed-only Naaman the Syrian.”

C. The message about God’s kingdom mission that Jesus brought was radically different than what they thought. God used the prophets Elijah and Elisha as agents of healing to outsiders. Elijah was sent to a non-Jew, widowed woman. Elisha reached out to a non-Jew, too, a Syrian whose disease was leprosy.

D. God’s kingdom mission embraced the widow, the unclean, the Gentile and those of the lowest status. His kingdom mission is inclusive not exclusive.

E. Jesus had to face the hostile reaction from them in response to this challenge in Luke 4:28-29. As we see in Luke 4:30, however, Jesus demonstrates his pursuit in order to fulfill God’s will in the face of obstacles. The Bible tells that “But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way (v. 30).” Although the crowd became so hostile, Jesus was not stopped by them.

F. The emphasis is on the last word, “went on his way” which in the Greek text is a verb that implies a continuous action that “He was going on.” Truly, Jesus demonstrated the
great example as he continually pursued his path of obedience to fulfill God's mission for which he was anointed.


Conclusion

We understand that life is difficult and there are many obstacles that challenge us as we pursue the faithful Christian walk. However we need to remind ourselves as Christian leaders of the Biblical truth that there is possibility in an impossible world through Jesus Christ. There is hope in the face of difficulties. The kingdom mission does not need to be compromised, given-up nor delayed!

We have Jesus as our example. And therefore, we have access through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the purpose to proclaim his message and the ability to pursue the path of obedience. He has demonstrated to us the kingdom mission that is possible in the face of opposition. There may be difficulties ahead of us, challenges that may press us down and discouraging days of rejection, but we can go on following Jesus in the path of obedience to fulfill the mission.
STRIKEPOINT SCRIPTURE PRESENTATION
LEADERSHIP

This scripture presentation should be presented with the script in notebooks and the Readers’ lines highlighted so they can easily follow along. Readers 1, 2, 3 represent the Narrators and take on the role of the people in the synagogue. Reader 4 is Jesus. Please have the readers rehearse the script thoroughly. Remind them that they are telling a story through this scripture.

ONE:
Luke 4:14-30

TWO:
New International Version

FOUR:
Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

THREE:
14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.

TWO:
He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him.

THREE:
Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

FOUR:
18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

ONE:
20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down.
The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

He began by saying to them,

“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips.

“Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

they asked.

Jesus said to them,

“Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

“I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this.

They got up, drove him out of the town,

and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built,

in order to throw him off the cliff.

But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.
STRIKEPOINT Week 3: Young Adult Empowerment

Sermon Outline by Captain Margareta Ivarsson

“A YOUNG STRIKEFORCE”

Text: Scripture: II Chronicles 34:1-13

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left. In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles and idols. Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles and the idols. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. He burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and so he purged Judah and Jerusalem. In the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in the ruins around them, he tore down the altars and the Asherah poles and crushed the idols to powder and cut to pieces all the incense altars throughout Israel. Then he went back to Jerusalem.

In the eighteenth year of Josiah’s reign, to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the temple of the Lord his God. They went to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the temple of God, which the Levites who were the gatekeepers had collected from the people of Manasseh, Ephraim and the entire remnant of Israel and from all the people of Judah and Benjamin and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Then they entrusted it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the Lord’s temple. These men paid the workers who repaired and restored the temple. They also gave money to the carpenters and builders to purchase dressed stone, and timber for joists and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had allowed to fall into ruin.

The workers labored faithfully. Over them to direct them were Jahath and Obadiah, Levites descended from Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, descended from Kohath. The Levites—all who were skilled in playing musical instruments—had charge of the laborers and supervised all the workers from job to job. Some of the Levites were secretaries, scribes and gatekeepers.

Purpose:

To empower “A YOUNG STRIKEFORCE” to take on leadership as a catalyst for all ages to further the mission in the local corps and community by the power of The Holy Spirit.

Aim:

Listeners will learn through the life of king Josiah how The Holy Spirit empowers “A YOUNG STRIKEFORCE” to lead all ages to Seek God and Take Action.
INTRODUCTION
Possible Illustration(or insert your own) - Mattie Stepanek (mattieonline.com)

On September 11, 2001, most American citizens were glued to television sets, and in a state of shock and horror as terrorist attacks on United States soil aired live on major networks.

Mattie J.T. Stepanek – the late teen poet and peace activist – was 11 years old at the time, and watched the lives of several personal friends go up in ash as buildings collapsed and fires raged. Friends he had just been with, and high-fived or hugged the day before.

As the tragic events unfolded and the numbers impacted by senseless loss skyrocketed, Mattie penned three poems. The first was a statement of shock. The second was a statement of “what now? what next?” in the midst of so much violence.

from Hope Through Heartsongs, Hyperion, 2002

This year, 2014, marks the tenth anniversary of Mattie’s passing and the foundation in his name is increasingly challenging and impacting the world with his selfless messages of peace. Mattie’s life, perhaps too short in human years, continues to count for eternity.

  A. God is raising up A YOUNG STRIKEFORCE to lead and influence the mission of The Salvation Army but do we notice them? In Mattie’s words “We need to notice. Just notice. Notice for a moment before the future slips away…”

  B. Do we hear a call to pray for and discover A YOUNG STRIKEFORCE equipped by God for spiritual impact in the kingdom of God, changing lives for Jesus, one at a time?

Scripture teaches us that God makes use of anyone He pleases to further His purposes. While we often have stipulations in mind when we think of who would be a worthy candidate for a certain task, such as: years of experience, Christian maturity, strengths, weaknesses, looks or style; God’s choices are often surprising:

- God chose the shepherd boy David to defeat the giant Goliath, an enemy all others were too afraid to fight
- When Samuel was just a child not even knowing yet how to listen to God’s voice, God spoke to him and used him to speak into the life of the experienced priest Eli in the temple
Salvation Army history: Eliza Shirley was only 17 when she arrived from the UK to Philadelphia, PA, with a conviction that the Lord had called her to preach the Gospel and do the mission of The Salvation Army.

C. In II Chronicles 34:1-13 we read about Josiah who was made king at 8 years of age. We learn that at a very young age he did what was right in God’s eyes and followed king David’s example of godly living. This was a time in the history of Israel when good and bad kings took turns. The people were led in righteousness by godly kings. They were led astray and missed the mark when following ungodly kings.

D. Josiah was a good king who served His people in the ways of God. God empowered Josiah not necessarily because he was young, but because God found in him a desire to love and serve Him wholeheartedly. It is important for us, no matter what stage of life we find ourselves in, to keep an open heart and mind with no prejudice. As we seek God we are responsible to teach and empower those whom God calls.

I. SEEK GOD

“In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David.” (II Chron. 34:3a)

How can we do this?

A. Read and Study the Gospels
   • Josiah spent 4 years in preparation seeking God.
   • The four Gospels tell the story of Jesus. By reading and exploring the life of Jesus we receive knowledge and spiritual understanding of how to be like Him.

B. Spend time with Jesus
   • For Josiah it was a process of drawing close to God to discover vision for the future.
   • As we learn from the life of Jesus we are called into an intentional daily relationship with Him.
   • There is no shortcut to this endeavor but to spend time in the Word and in prayer. This is a privilege and necessary if we mean to have an impact in this world for Him.

C. Listen to the Holy Spirit
   • If we want to do God’s work we must follow God’s direction.
   • As we study the gospel and spend time with Jesus our calling will become increasingly evident. Like Samuel in the temple we will learn to respond to the moving of the Holy Spirit.
   • The gospel stories become a spring board to “do something”, to move out into community where God has placed us, to witness and become like Jesus for others.
Josiah’s story teaches us to Seek God by immersing ourselves in the gospels and spending time with Jesus listening to the Holy Spirit. When we seek God the next step will be to:

II. TAKE ACTION

“In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images.” (34:3b)

Josiah’s action plan is carefully crafted and involves all the people. He leads the people to:

A.  **Worship God**
   • Restoring the temple was one of Josiah’s first steps. Without God’s presence they could do nothing. He takes action to rid the land of any form of idol worship. An idol is anything that obstructs the connection between God and his people, anything that competes with God’s will and way.
   • When we think of corporate worship we may think of many different aspects, such as worship led by a worship band, a brass band or a songster group, a sacred dance or a preacher or teacher who shares God’s word (Romans 12:1-2). These may all become building blocks and part of a whole that serve to lead us to the heart of God.
   • True worship (John 4:23-24) will draw people to Jesus and the outcome will be a people saved by God who will overflow in passion for God, sharing the Good News of the gospel and by living in the likeness of Jesus.

B.  **Empower the Team**
   • Josiah accomplishes mobilization of all. This is no “one man show”. All are involved in restoring what had been lost. We can have the same effect today.
   • Scripture teaches us that each individual is uniquely gifted for the task of testifying to Jesus. That means that everyone has at least one gift. (I Corinthians 12:7) Some have more than one and others have several gifts as appointed by the Holy Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:11).
   • This giftedness is to be brought to the feet of Jesus so others can be saved and sanctified. The objective is to bring everyone to Jesus so they can be saved and restored to holiness, discover who they are in Him and begin having an impact in their world.
CONCLUSION
Josiah is an example of someone from “A YOUNG STRIKEFORCE” who knew to SEEK GOD and TAKE ACTION in empowering others as he gave his life to serve and restore the people of Israel in his role as their king.

INVITATION:
1. Who are the young people that the Lord has his hand upon in our community of faith?
2. How can we empower them? Someone must give up power in order to empower someone else. Is it you?
3. Is it time for us to listen to direction from The Lord and affirm His hand upon a new generation and obediently empower them to serve Him?
This scripture presentation should be presented with the script in notebooks and the Readers’ lines highlighted so they can easily follow along. The relationship between the Readers is important to the success of the script. They really like each other although ONE is continually annoyed with TWO. They should have fun. Consider using a parent and young adult child.

READERS -

ONE: This reader is older than reader TWO. His/her goal is to get the scripture read and he/she is annoyed at reader TWO’s continual comments that interrupt their progress. This reader MUST work on the pronunciation of the names and cities in the final verses. Those words should be spoken with confidence so there is no distraction stumbling over the words.

TWO: This reader should be a young adult. He/she is enthralled with the story of Josiah and continues to excitedly point out Josiah’s age as well as other information about the story. He/she also is having a bit of fun irritating ONE. Any time that he/she is speaking to the congregation, the lines should be memorized. He/she can look ahead when the scripture is being read by ONE. Make sure the last line is clear and understood as a joke.

ONE:
2 Chronicles 34:1-13

TWO:
New International Version

ONE:
Josiah’s Reforms

TWO:
(To ONE)
I bet that most of these people haven’t heard of Josiah.

ONE:
(To TWO)
Well – maybe not. That’s why we are reading this scripture.

TWO:
(To the congregation)
Listen, you are gonna love this guy!

ONE:
(To TWO)
Can we get started here?
TWO:
(To ONE, excited)
Sure. Can I read first?

ONE:
Yes.

TWO:
Thanks. (Reading) “Josiah was eight years old when he became king.”
(To the congregation) Can you believe that? Eight years old? Well, it was because his dad was assassinated. Oh yeah – his dad was bad news. King Amon – he.....

ONE:
(Interrupting)
Excuse me? We’ve been asked to read the scripture. Can we continue?

TWO:
Oh sure. (Reading) “He reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years.”
(To the congregation)
That would have made him 39 years old when he died. I figured it out with the calculator on my phone. (Smiles proudly.)

ONE:
(To TWO - annoyed)
Ok, look – this is going to take forever if you don’t stop adding your two cents.

TWO:
Ok. But don’t you think they might want to know that those 31 years were from 639BC to 608BC? Hmmm??

ONE:
(considering it, but still annoyed)
Possibly. But may I continue?

TWO:
Go for it!

ONE:
(Reading) “Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed the ways of his ancestor David, not turning aside to the right or to the left. In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young...”

TWO:
(To the congregation) 16 years old.
(To ONE)
Please. Go ahead.
ONE:
(Reading) “He began to seek the God of his ancestor David.”

TWO:
(to the congregation)
That’s really pretty amazing. 16 years old – a child!
I bet he didn’t even shave yet.
(Smiling - to ONE) Go on.

ONE:
(Reading) “In his twelfth year…”

TWO:
(Interrupting again. To the congregation)
Now Josiah is 20 years old. He spent the last four years reading the Bible, getting close to God. Because now he’s ready to TAKE ACTION!! You see, the world was in pretty bad shape because of these terrible kings. Listen to this next part– this would make a great action flick.

ONE:
(Reading) “He began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles and idols. Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles and the idols. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. He burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and so he purged Judah and Jerusalem. In the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in the ruins around them, he tore down the altars and the Asherah poles and crushed the idols to powder and cut to pieces all the incense altars throughout Israel. Then he went back to Jerusalem.”

TWO:
(To congregation)
What’d I tell ya? He was cleaning up the place. But it gets better…
(Motioning to ONE to continue)

ONE:
(Reading) “In the eighteenth year of Josiah’s reign…”

TWO:
Twenty-six!

ONE:
(Reading) “In the eighteenth year of Josiah’s reign to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan (son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city), with Joah (son of Joahaz, the recorder) to repair the temple of the LORD his God.”
TWO:
(To the congregation)
You see, the Temple had been neglected during his father Amon’s reign, but Josiah was turning the people back to God. Twenty-six years old. Pretty impressive.
(To ONE) Alright – read us the happy ending!

ONE:
“They went to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the temple of God, which the Levites who were the gatekeepers had collected from the people of Manasseh, Ephraim and the entire remnant of Israel and from all the people of Judah and Benjamin and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Then they entrusted it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the LORD’s temple.

These men paid the workers who repaired and restored the temple. They also gave money to the carpenters and builders to purchase dressed stone, and timber for joists and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had allowed to fall into ruin. The workers labored faithfully. Over them to direct them were Jahath and Obadiah, Levites descended from Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, descended from Kohath. The Levites—all who were skilled in playing musical instruments—had charge of the laborers and supervised all the workers from job to job. Some of the Levites were secretaries, scribes and gatekeepers.”

TWO:
What a great story! Josiah sought God, took action and look what he accomplished: we’re using him to see what can happen when you put a young adult in charge!
STRIKEPOINT Week 4: Integrated Mission (Urban Focus)
Sermon Outline by Captain Margareta Ivarsson

“RESTORED TO MISSION”
Scripture: Amos 9:11-15

11 “In that day
“I will restore David’s fallen shelter—
 I will repair its broken walls
 and restore its ruins—
 and will rebuild it as it used to be,
12 so that they may possess the remnant of Edom
 and all the nations that bear my name, [e]
declares the L ORD, who will do these things.

13 “The days are coming,” declares the L ORD,
 “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman
 and the planter by the one treading grapes.
New wine will drip from the mountains
 and flow from all the hills,
14 and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. [f]
 “They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them.
 They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;
 they will make gardens and eat their fruit.
15 I will plant Israel in their own land,
 never again to be uprooted
 from the land I have given them,”
says the L ORD your God.

Purpose:
To implement STRIKEPOINT - MISSION (URBAN FOCUS) in the local corps while exploring and following the
vision God has for the specific local corps and community.

Aim:
Listeners will learn what it means to be “RESTORED TO MISSION”, first to Know Jesus and then to Transform
Community in the local context

INTRODUCTION
a. Illustration(s) A & B (http://affirmfacilitators.org/docs/MissionInCommunity.pdf)
giving examples of mission lived out in every day circumstances. We might have a specific plan.
God, however, intervenes in those plans leading us to minister through the leading of His Holy
Spirit.
- Or feel free to use an illustration that you find that appropriate.

A/ A Story from CHINA: A Salvation Army team together with government officials visited a government-run
drug detoxification center in China. Listen to their story:
“The Salvation Army in Norway has given musical instruments to be used in the center. As we entered through the gate, we heard music, and saw a group of about 20 people — a few on instruments, most standing and singing in two rows with the women in front and men behind. We sat at some distance from them and listened. One young woman of about 15 stood as an amplified voice told of her addiction because she used to be sent by her parents to get drugs for them. She then sang. Two men stood as we were told that the older man had destroyed his family and was there with his son. They played flutes beautifully. The whole group also sang. Lyrics were translated, full of pathos, about missing their homes so far away, regret, the pain they had caused their loved ones, and loss of all that was good in life. As the performance finished, our group was invited forward to speak to them. We approached and saw the front row of women were emotional, some crying. Some of us also began to cry. The county deputy mayor had a microphone, which she offered us to speak to them, but none of us could speak. We stood in silence and wept together. Several managed to say a few words. One of the team members had the words come to mind, ‘Love is stronger than death’, and felt the leading of the Holy Spirit in those words. She said to the group, ‘You are experiencing a kind of death. The only thing stronger than death is love. You are surrounded by our care and the care of your family and community. Take hold of love every day.’ After these words, one member of the visiting group, who is a recovered addict himself, said, ‘We should hug them.’ Those from outside China waited to see what the Chinese team members would do. As some began to move forward, we moved forward together, women to embrace women, men to embrace men. Although all the government officials did not participate, there was no negative reaction from them. They spoke later of their insight that the addicts need compassion. Christians are not allowed to name Jesus in this context. Yet The Salvation Army team is learning to demonstrate the God who is love, and to demonstrate the presence of ‘God with us’, who is Jesus.

B/ A Story from the USA: “I was doing pick-ups for the kids’ program, when a mother got into the van full of kids and started talking to me about issues including relationships, racism and money. Before long she was weeping. After I and all the kids in the van had listened to her, we prayed. I could not offer her the money she needed, I could not eliminate the discrimination she and her children were experiencing, I couldn’t mend her abusive relationship, but going before the Lord together, in a mysterious and yet real way the Spirit began moving and restoring hope. A healing and strength came over her to stay strong in the separation from a violent man. An assurance that she and her children belong to a community of faith seemed to encourage her to keep going! I was encouraged by her strength and faith. Her trust in me led to the opportunity to model inclusion and racial healing within our community. In those minutes I knew the Lord was with us, and surely with the children, who were keenly tuned to what was going on.”

In these two stories we can see how we can be “RESTORED TO MISSION”. Our every day circumstances can be filled with opportunity to change the world. STRIKEPOINT - INTEGRATED MISSION is challenging us to the prospect of “new work being done in new places in new ways for new people.” (Commissioner Barry C. Swanson) That was also the mandate of Amos in the Book of Amos 9:11-15.

• The people of Israel had become complacent and were taking their position as God’s chosen people for granted.
• Amos was a prophet and shepherd (1:1) who struggled to understand why God would want to use him but he followed and accepted His mission.
• God sent Amos to warn Israel (3:7-8) against over confidence and remind them that the privilege of belonging to God comes with responsibilities (3:2). Amos was especially called to speak of God’s judgment and righteousness as two sides of one coin.
God is still calling modern day “prophets” to help the church to understand how He loves the world and desires a personal relationship with every human being through Jesus Christ. Amos speaks of God's promises for the future and how the coming Messiah will fulfill all God's promises. For us that means an invitation to:

I. KNOW JESUS

“In that day I will restore David’s fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name, declares the Lord, who will do these things.” (Amos 9:11-12)

A. Jesus Saves Us (Romans 10:9-10) and we become personal followers of Jesus (Matthew 4:19).

- David’s tabernacle where God met with His people while they were in exile was eventually destroyed. Amos speaks of a Messiah who will come and restore the tabernacle in a new and deeper fashion.
- The people of Israel could no longer live on past blessings as an assurance that all would be well in the future. God wanted their lives to reflect their beliefs. Sin had gotten in the way of God's purposes. They were stuck in their own selfish ways and had stopped caring about others.
- This can happen to us as well. As we decide to KNOW JESUS His love takes root in our hearts. We express it sometimes by speaking but very often by living it out on mission for God as a powerful testimony.
- Amos called a lost Israel to repentance. For us it means full access to a personal relationship with Jesus.

B. Jesus Sanctifies Us - Fills us with the Spirit (I Thessalonians 5:23-24)

- We are transformed individually and in community with power to change the world (John 20:21).
- In the story from China it meant showing human compassion in Jesus name. For the person picking up the children for corps programs it meant to stop and listen to a troubled woman and then to pray with her while the children learned a lesson of compassion that possibly will stick with them forever.
- We are accountable in community to love and serve Jesus (Acts 1:14).

When we KNOW JESUS he transforms us personally (II Corinthians 3:16-18) and in community (Ephesians 4:16) for a reason. We are called to:

II. TRANSFORM COMMUNITY

“I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild ruined cities and live in them. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them.” (Amos 9:14-15)

Some things may have to change if “new work being done in new places in new ways for new people” is going to be a reality. For those who KNOW JESUS to TRANSFORM COMMUNITY means that:

A. Our Salvation and Sanctification has an influence on others:

- Live for Others:

  Amos was sent to warn the people of Israel of wrongful behavior towards the oppressed, poor and marginalized. He went as far as despising their worship because they thought they could live irresponsibly and God would still approve of them and protect them (5:23). We have been planted for the purpose of the transforming power of Jesus to take root.
• Fight for Justice:
Amos challenged Israel to repent and turn from their evil ways and to **perform acts of justice**. He promised that the outcome would be His blessings: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (5:24) We also can perform acts of justice.

B. Our Corps/Center will be a place used by God for expansion of the Kingdom:

• God has promised to fulfill His word as we obediently follow Him. We can pray and work towards understanding of what God has planned for our corps/center and community and work with Him in that (Jeremiah 29:7).
• We can ask for eyes to see what deliverance from despair means for people we serve in our community and do what God asks us to do to alleviate suffering and preach the good news (Revelation 22:2).
• This is what it means to be ‘RESTORED TO MISSION’. Our lives and our actions speak the same language of Jesus love.

CONCLUSION
God wants us to be “RESTORED TO MISSION”. He had a plan for Amos. He has a plan for us.
I. We can KNOW JESUS as we receive his salvation and give all of our lives to him.
II. We can TRANSFORM COMMUNITY as His Holy Spirit empowers us to have an influence on others.

Challenge:
• Do you Know Jesus? Are you “all in” for the transformation of others?
• Have you been filled by the Spirit to Transform Community?
• What is God already doing in your community? How can you join in with that movement of God?
• If God is calling for something new how does he want you, us involved in this new work being done by His Spirit?
This scripture presentation should be presented with the script in notebooks and the Readers’ lines highlighted so they can easily follow along. Choose two readers whose voices are contrasting: male/female, high/low, old/young. Please have the readers rehearse before presenting this scripture.

This presentation is straightforward, but attention should be given to the times that the readers speak together. They should rehearse speaking these lines so they are in precise unison. The readers should create a flow in the piece that makes it sound as if one person is reading. That is achieved in rehearsal by noting where the punctuation is place. Keep the sentence moving until the ‘periods’.

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ONE:
Amos 9:11-15

TWO:
New International Version (NIV)

BOTH:
Israel’s Restoration

ONE:
11 “In that day
I will restore David’s fallen shelter—

TWO:
I will repair its broken walls
and restore its ruins—

BOTH:
and will rebuild it as it used to be,

ONE:
12 so that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations that bear my name,”
declares the LORD, who will do these things.

TWO:
13 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman
and the planter by the one treading grapes.

---
ONE:
New wine will drip from the mountains
and flow from all the hills,
and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.

BOTH:
“They will rebuild the ruined cities

TWO:
and live in them.

ONE:
They will plant vineyards

TWO;
and drink their wine;

ONE:
they will make gardens

TWO:
and eat their fruit.

ONE:
I will plant Israel in their own land,

TWO:
ever again to be uprooted
from the land I have given them,”

BOTH:
says the LORD your God.

ONE:
Amos 9:11-15

TWO:
New International Version