





— 2023 THEME —

# SOUND FORTH THE WORD!

"THE WORD OF THE LORD SOUNDED FORTH FROM YOU ...  
YOUR FAITH IN GOD HAS GONE FORTH EVERYWHERE"

— 1 THES. 1:8





# THIS SERMON'S PURPOSE

To *introduce* the year of work ahead on “sounding forth the word,” and help us *begin to see* what a model church looks like in its outreach.



# Once Upon a Time

...there was a land covered in deep darkness.



And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

**1 Thessalonians 1:6-7**

English Standard Version





“For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

English Standard Version





**RECEIVE**

Joy  
Conviction  
Change  
Love  
Hope

**SEND**





# POINT #1

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After you catch the song,  
you become a singer.

*We've received the gospel with joy and conviction.  
It's time to carry the Lord and his word with us.*

(1 Thess. 1:6-8)



Greek - "typos"

"... you became an example to all  
the believers ..."

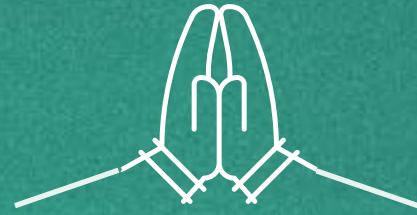
"pattern"  
Heb. 8:5

1 Thessalonians 1:7

English Standard Version







# A CHURCH LIKE THESSALONICA

- May we *receive* the word with the joy of the Holy Spirit, in spite of any affliction! (1 Thess. 1:6)
- May we become an *example* to all the believers throughout our part of the world! (1 Thess. 1:7)
- May the word *sound* forth from us throughout Fort Wayne and all the areas around us! (1 Thess. 1:8)
- May our faith in God go forth *everywhere*!  
(1 Thess. 1:8)



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**SOUND**  
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“Paul’s *from you* is emphatic (they were special), and his *rang out* (exēcheō) is picturesque; it might describe the clarion call of a trumpet or the roll of thunder. It emphasizes the resounding nature of the witness borne by the Thessalonian church. The verb is a Greek perfect, which implies that the sounding out was continuing. It was no passing whim.”

*Leon Morris*





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“The verb ἐξήχειν is found only here in the NT  
and provides the image of something, like sound,  
*going forth in all directions*”

*Charles Wanamaker*



# GEOGRAPHY & THE GOSPEL





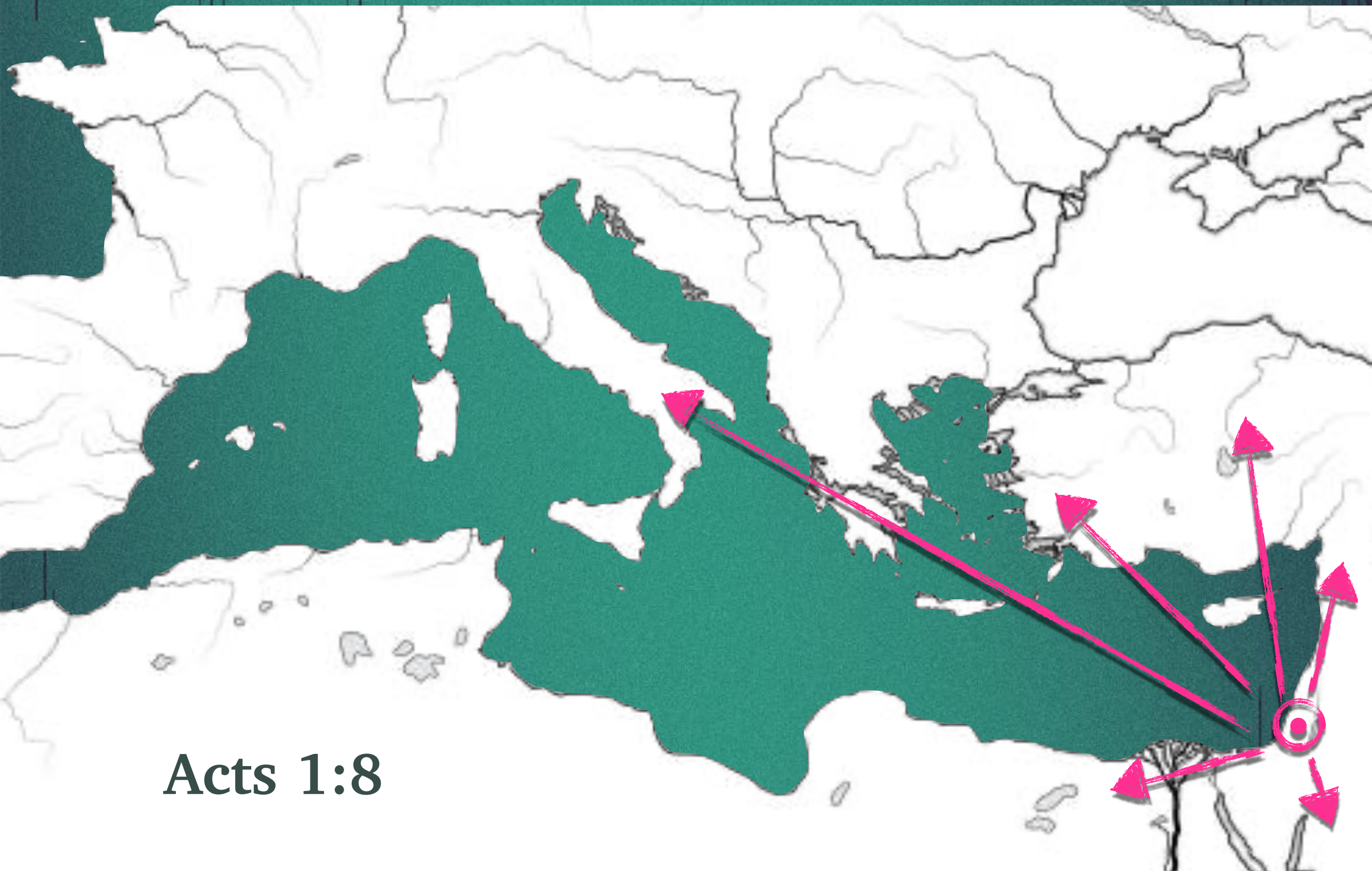
“...you will be my witnesses in  
Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria,  
and to the end of the earth”

**Acts 1:8**  
English Standard Version





# GEOGRAPHY & THE GOSPEL



Acts 1:8



“For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.”

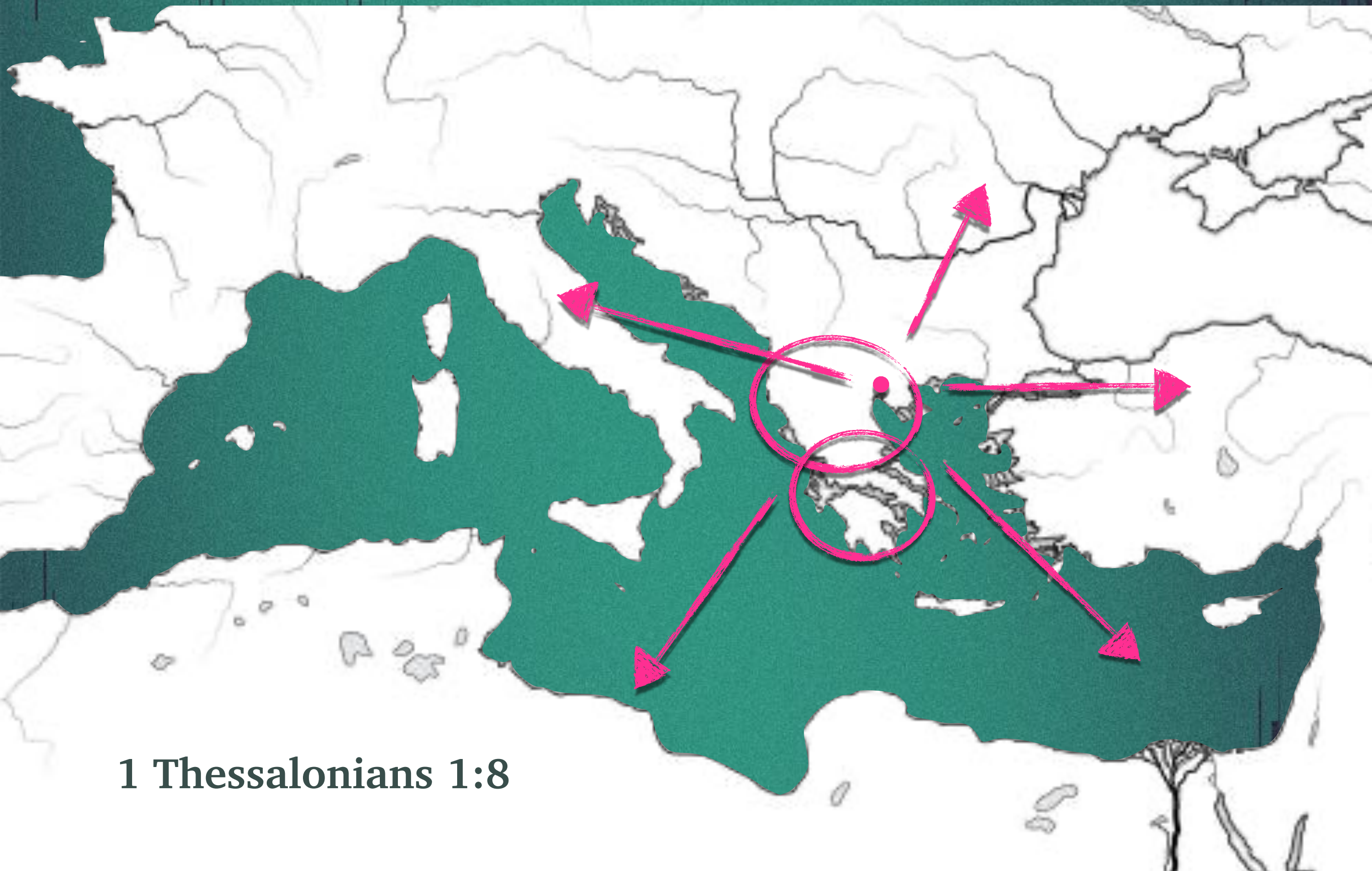
1 Thessalonians 1:8

English Standard Version





# GEOGRAPHY & THE GOSPEL



1 Thessalonians 1:8





## POINT #2

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We are a kingdom outpost,  
dispatching light into the  
surrounding darkness.

*Our mission is to fill our area with the Word,  
then send it even further.*

(1 Thess. 1:8)



“For not only has the word of the Lord  
sounded forth from you in ~~Macedonia~~ <sup>Fort Wayne</sup>  
~~the Midwest~~ <sup>the Midwest</sup> and ~~Achaia~~, but your faith in God has  
gone forth everywhere, so that we  
need not say anything.”

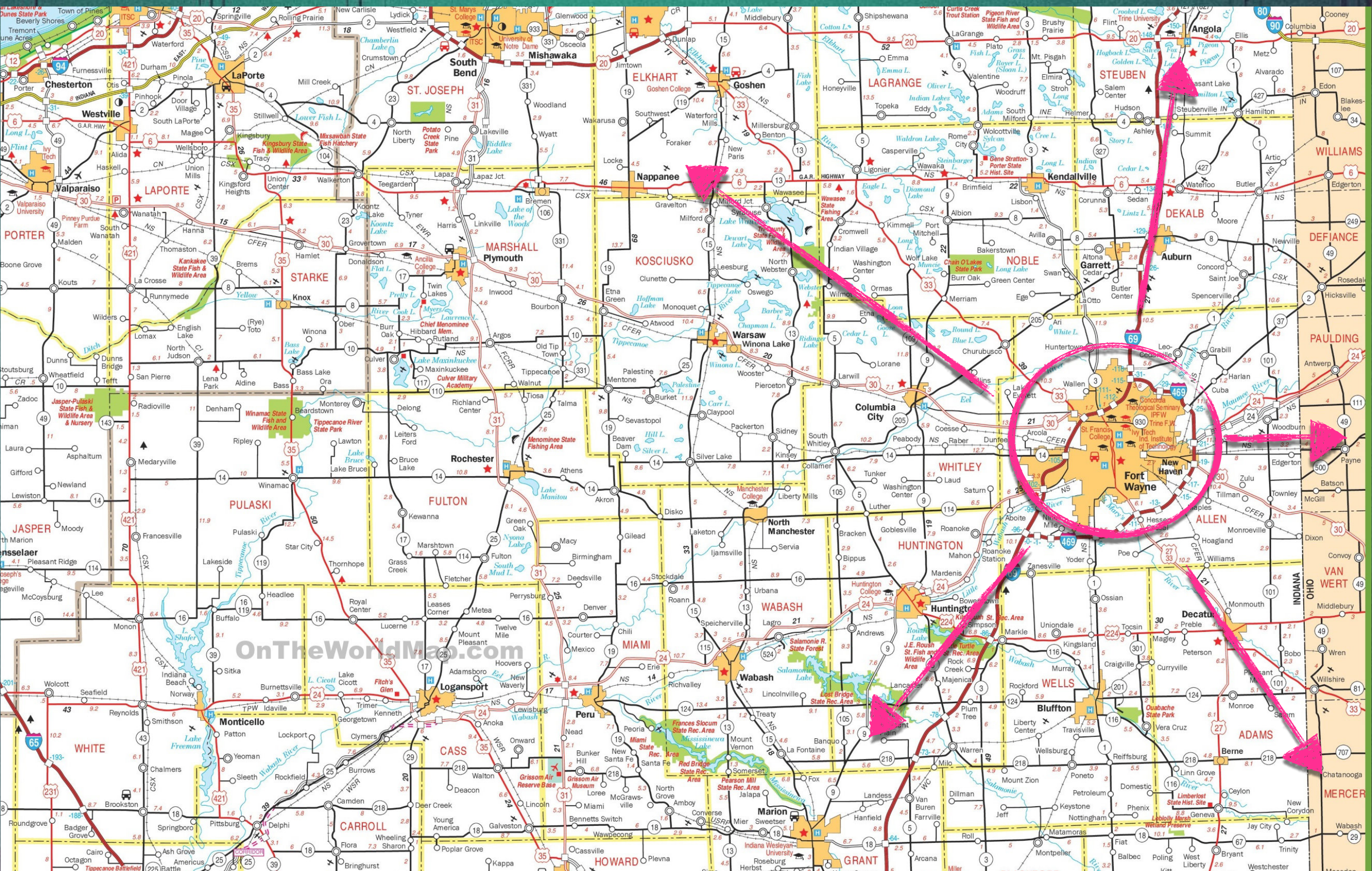
1 Thessalonians 1:8

English Standard Version





# GEOGRAPHY & THE GOSPEL

A detailed map of the Fort Wayne, Indiana area, showing various counties, cities, and roads. A pink circle highlights the Fort Wayne area, and a pink arrow points from the title 'GEOGRAPHY & THE GOSPEL' to the map. The map includes labels for counties such as Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall, Pulaski, and Wabash. Major cities like Fort Wayne, Elkhart, Goshen, and Warsaw are marked. The map also shows various roads, including highways and local streets, and geographical features like lakes and rivers. A pink arrow points from the title 'GEOGRAPHY & THE GOSPEL' to the map.





# FLOOD THE FORT!

LET'S FILL NORTHEAST INDIANA  
WITH GOD'S WORD THIS YEAR!



# ARISE & BUILD

A STUDY OF DISCIPLESHIP

## EVANGELISM CHECK-IN

### SECTION 1 – HOW ARE YOU DOING?

- How would you rate your current motivation to share the gospel? 1 2 3 4 5
- How would you rate your current ability to share the gospel? 1 2 3 4 5
- How do you think you're doing at praying for the lost in your life? 1 2 3 4 5
- What is your strong suit in evangelism?

\_\_\_ Boldness

\_\_\_ Serving & Influencing

\_\_\_ Studying Methods of Evangelism

\_\_\_ One-on-One Studies

\_\_\_ Engaging In Spiritual Conversations

\_\_\_ Inviting People

\_\_\_ Listening & Relating to People

\_\_\_ Encouraging/Supporting Others' Evangelism

\_\_\_ Rightly Dividing the Word

\_\_\_ Praying for the Lost

\_\_\_ Welcoming People

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION 2 – WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE AT THE END OF THE YEAR?

• I want to be able to \_\_\_\_\_

• What steps do you want to have taken? \_\_\_\_\_

• Describe any attitudes and habits you want to have: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION 3 – WHAT HINDERS YOU? (check all that apply)

\_\_\_ Don't think of it often (awareness)

\_\_\_ Don't think of the fate of the lost (eternal perspective)

\_\_\_ Don't believe in the only way they can be saved (faith)

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**SOUND**  
FORTH THE WORD!

**WE HAVE SOME WORK TO DO.**

We need strategies and knowledge.



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**WE HAVE SOME WORK TO DO.**

We need confidence.

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**WE HAVE SOME WORK TO DO.**

We worry how will it  
change our relationships.



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**WE HAVE SOME WORK TO DO.**

Some of us have a deep  
sense of shame or fear.

# NEEDS & VISIONS

Family

Discipling

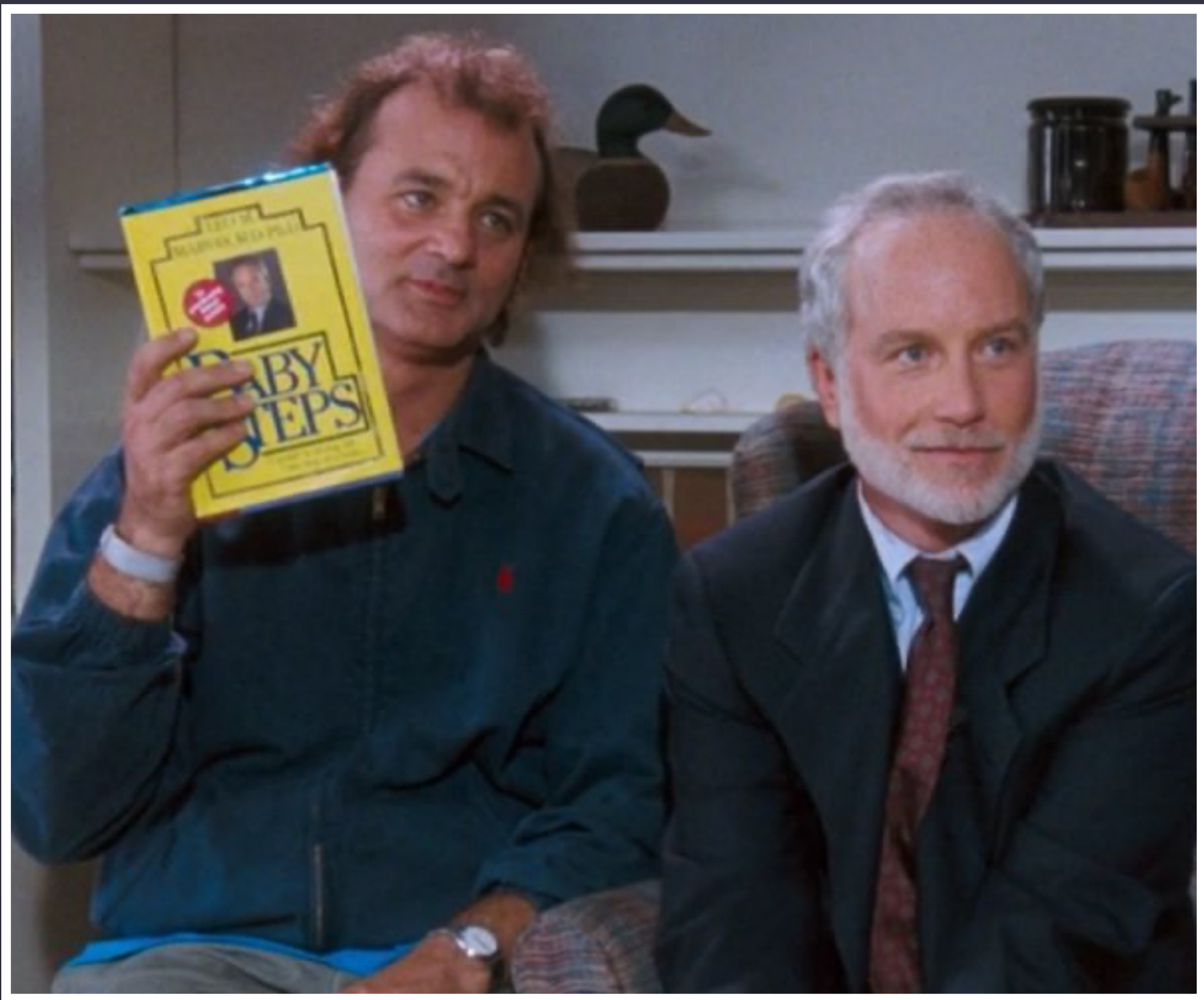
Outreach

Welcoming

Meaningful  
Assemblies







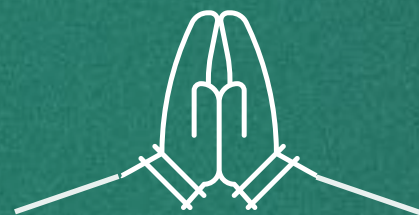


What is your next step toward  
sounding the word more effectively?

**“I WILL...”**







I pray you catch the  
song and sing out!



