

Sharing the good news of  
Jesus and His kingdom and  
equipping the church to do  
the same.

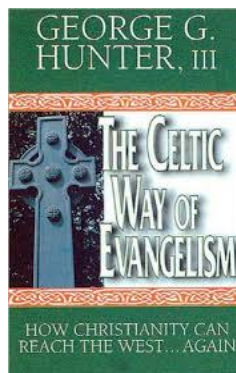


Greg West, Evangelist

## Saint Patrick's Day: So Much More Than Green Beer

His real name was Maewyn Succat, but he came to be known as St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland and one of Christianity's best-known figures. His story is one of tragedy and transformation. Out of great agony and loss God raised him up to be a missionary to his enemies.

### Recommended Reading



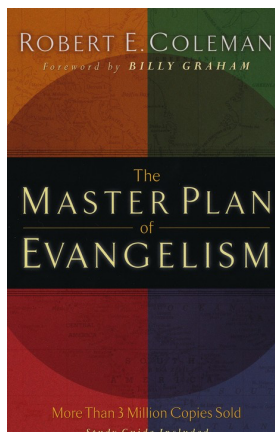
Written by one of my seminary professors, this book is a fascinating look at how the St. Patrick and other leaders spread the good news of Jesus in strategic ways across the land.

### Saint Patrick's Breastplate

*An ancient Irish prayer attributed to Saint Patrick*

I rise today	from nature's failings,
with the power of God to	from all who wish to harm
pilot me,	me,
God's strength to sustain me,	far or near,
God's wisdom to guide me,	alone and in a crowd. (...)
God's eye to look ahead for	I arise today
me,	Through a mighty strength,
God's ear to hear me,	the invocation of the
God's word to speak for me,	Trinity,
God's hand to protect me,	Through belief in the
God's way before me,	Threeness,
God's shield to defend me,	Through confession of the
God's host to deliver me,	Onesness
from snares of devils,	of the Creator of creation
from evil temptations,	

Join Rev. Greg West in a 6-week journey through *The Master Plan of Evangelism*



*Tues. Evenings*  
*March 9-April 13*

*Or*

*Wed. Afternoons*  
*March 10-April 14*

*RSVP at*  
*[www.lifeinhisname.net](http://www.lifeinhisname.net)*

There will be an emphasis on fellowship, abiding in Christ, prayer for one another and sharing as to how our reading and learning is helping us and other around us to experience "life in his name (John 20:31)."

- Tues. evening: 4 spots available.
- Wed. afternoons: 2 spots available.
- Meetings over Zoom.
- No cost for the study.

# Don't Go Solo: Our Small Group in Virginia Beach

BY: GREG WEST

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**When you live near the beach. Why not have a “field trip” and host the small group on the water?**

Last fall I started a weekly men’s group with my good friend, Bob. The first sentence from our purpose statement reads:

“

*“To get together weekly in the name of Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit to help each other grow in our relationship with God the Father.”*

The group has been a source of great encouragement and support one to another through these challenging times. We meet outdoors because of the pandemic. It’s a back porch or a back yard and sometimes around a fire. We’ve had some good laughs as we’ve looked like an arctic rescue party on some cold nights; and yes, we cancelled a few because of the weather.

Make no mistake, Jesus had and has a plan for the planet! His goal was and is “to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)”, to gather a people who would live the values of God’s Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10) to establish God’s Kingdom here. His intentional strategy was starting a mini church, not a mega church – a small group. He had 12 male disciples and a group of female disciples with whom he spent the majority of his time.

Jesus is the supreme expert on humanity. He knows how we function best and understands completely how the gift of community can help us on the journey of life. Friends, we weren’t meant to go solo! However, our American culture highly values individualism, which no doubt has some advantages. Many people maintain this individualism as they try to follow Jesus. In the spiritual life though, going solo is not advisable. I’ve seen a number of people go solo and end up way off course. “As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend (Proverbs 27:17).” We are created for community!

If you’re thinking about starting a small group and I can be of help, please reach out. I’m convinced a small group that is intentional about having an atmosphere of God’s grace and truth will be a powerful catalyst for all kinds of good! Healing, hope, reconciliation, purpose, joy, freedom, fulfillment, peace and a closeness with the Living God are all probable outcomes from a Christ centered small group.

Remember, the Great Commission is not an option for Christians to consider, but a command for us to obey. There is joy in walking with Christ that can compel us to reach out to others and form new redemptive circles. “Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3).”

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Recommended Viewing: *The Chosen* (Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1-FoFj8Jbo>)



*The Chosen* is a critically acclaimed series (rated 100% by critics on Rotten Tomatoes) documenting the life of Jesus from the perspective of those who knew him. The show remains to this day the largest crowd-funded media project in history! It is also the first ever multi-season series about the life of Jesus, with Season 2 expected to drop around Easter this year. Season 1 can be viewed via *The Chosen* app available through the Apple or Android app store.

Megan Basham, a reviewer from WORLD wrote on Rotten Tomatoes,

“

*The Chosen is one of the most engaging Bible-inspired productions I’ve seen. Surprisingly funny and relatable, we continue watching episode after episode not because we feel obligated to support it as dutiful Christians, but because it’s compelling.”*