

## **SESSION 6: MISSIONALLY FOCUSED**

**Passage:** Matthew 28:18-20

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Key Idea: **Go in the Power of Jesus Christ.**

### **All authority in heaven and on earth**

In these verses, Jesus asserts that He possesses all authority in both heaven and on earth. This statement is of utmost importance because it affirms Jesus' divine nature and His position as the Son of God. As the risen Lord, He has triumphed over sin and death, and now He exercises absolute authority over the entire universe.

#### **Colossians 1:15-17**

*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the first born over all creation. **16** For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Discuss the significance of Jesus' authority in giving the Great Commission. How does His authority impact our obedience and confidence in fulfilling this command?
2. Reflect on Jesus' authority over all things, as mentioned in Matthew 28:18. How can this truth inspire boldness and courage in your disciple-making efforts? How does it negate many of the excuses we make for our disobedience?

3. Reflect on moments when you have felt the Holy Spirit leading you to share your faith or take action in disciple-making. How can you continue to seek and follow His guidance?

Key Idea: **Making disciples**

### **Go and make disciples of all nations**

The calling for every believer is to be disciple-makers, sharing the love of Christ and leading others to a personal relationship with Him. By doing so, we participate in the continuation of Jesus' mission on earth, bringing hope, transformation, and eternal life to those we encounter.

#### **Romans 10:14-15**

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? **15** And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

#### **Discussion Questions - Making Disciples:**

1. Discuss the importance of discipleship in the process of making followers of Christ. How can we be intentional in mentoring and guiding new believers?
2. Share examples of successful disciple-making efforts you have seen or been a part of. What factors contributed to their effectiveness?
3. Discuss the benefits of being discipled and mentoring others in the faith. How can you seek both types of relationships in your walk with Christ?

Key Idea: **Go and Baptize**

### **Baptizing them**

Baptism is a symbolic act that represents a believer's identification with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Through baptism, believers publicly declare their faith in Jesus and their commitment to follow Him. As believers are baptized in the name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, this unifying act that brings believers together symbolizing one family of believers.

**Colossians 2:12**

*having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

**Discussion Questions - Raised to Life:**

1. In what ways can we overcome the fear or hesitation often associated with sharing our faith and making disciples?
2. Share your personal testimony with the group and discuss how it can be a powerful tool in making disciples.
3. Identify potential obstacles or personal fears that hinder you from sharing your faith. How can you work to overcome them?
4. Is there anyone in our group who has not been baptized by immersion after they were saved? If so, what is preventing you from doing so? As adults, it can be intimidating to think about what others might say if they found out that we haven't been baptized according to the model we see in Scripture. But at the end of the day, it's a matter of obedience: did Jesus really command us to be baptized? If so, then nothing else matters! And the reality is that your Life Group family will be thrilled and celebrate any and every spiritual act of obedience that we each take. That's a primary function of biblical community! Let's follow the example of the Ethiopian eunuch when after hearing the gospel and seeing a body of water, say, "What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" (Acts 8:36)

Key Idea: **Go and teach others**

**Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**

Teaching others the commands of Jesus, His life, death, resurrection, and the redemption He offers through faith in Him. It also involves sharing the principles of the Kingdom of God and living a life that reflects those principles and is an act of love. By embodying His teachings and relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can effectively fulfill this sacred mission, bringing light and hope to a world in need of God's grace.

**Luke 8:39**

*"Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.*

**Discussion Questions - Teach the Commands of Jesus:**

1. Sometimes we have a tendency to overcomplicate the gospel. We can feel like we need a seminary degree before we can lead anyone else to Christ. What does the scripture above imply about how long we should wait after we've been saved until we start telling others about Jesus? What is the application for us today?
2. How will you actively engage in the Great Commission in your everyday life, starting from your immediate circle of influence?
3. How can you demonstrate genuine care and compassion for those who may be unfamiliar with Christianity or come from different cultural backgrounds?
4. How can your small group collectively engage in local outreach and missions, partnering with organizations or ministries to fulfill the Great Commission?
5. Set specific and measurable goals for disciple-making and evangelism in your personal life and as a small group. How will you track progress and celebrate victories?

**Leadership Resources:**

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/matthew-28/>

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/the-holy-trinity/commentary-on-matthew-2816-20-3>

**Additional Questions for Consideration:**

1. What are some practical ways we can engage in making disciples in our local communities and beyond, considering the diversity of cultures and people groups around us?
2. Share personal experiences of how someone else's obedience to the Great Commission has impacted your own faith journey.
3. Reflect on the responsibility of teaching others to obey all that Jesus commanded. How do we balance truth and grace while engaging with individuals from various backgrounds?
4. How can we ensure that our disciple-making efforts are grounded in love and respect, showing genuine care for those we are reaching out to?
5. In what ways can we support and encourage one another as a small group in fulfilling the Great Commission both collectively and individually?
6. Reflect on the global impact of the Great Commission and how we, as a local small group, can contribute to reaching the nations with the Gospel.
7. Discuss potential challenges or barriers to making disciples in our current cultural context. How can we address these obstacles with wisdom and sensitivity?
8. Identify specific people in your life who are open to learning about Jesus or exploring their faith. How can you initiate conversations with them about the Gospel?
9. In what ways can you be more intentional in building relationships with those who are new to the faith or seeking to know more about Jesus?
10. Consider the people groups or communities around you that may have limited access to the Gospel. How can you be a bridge to share the Good News with them?
11. Share with the group your experiences in evangelism and disciple-making, and seek feedback and encouragement from your fellow believers.
12. As a group, commit to praying for one another's disciple-making efforts, seeking God's wisdom and power as you carry out the Great Commission together.