

STANDALONE LESSON

THE COMMAND OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today's Passage: Matthew 28:19-20

For the week of June 9th

MAIN POINT

You're never closer to God than when you're doing what He commanded you to do. Make disciples.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Use these questions to learn more about others in your Life Group.

If you were to name two things that you focus your life on, what would they be?

Why are those two things so important to you?

People dedicate their lives to working their jobs, raising children, amassing wealth, gaining power, and other pursuits. From Scripture we learn that the focus of the Christian life is discipleship—growing in our relationship with God and helping others know Him and grow in theirs too.

SCAN HERE FOR ADDITIONAL
COMMENTARY ON TODAY'S LESSON



GROW TOGETHER

We know it's important for the church to be about the business of making disciples. That's one reason we created our Discipleship Pathway. We want to help people know what it means to Love God, Find Community, Make Disciples, and Impact the World. The third step on the pathway, Make Disciples, encourages members to join a Discipleship Group (*also known as a D-Group*). But do you know why the task of disciple-making is so important? The answer is three-fold: Jesus commanded it (Matt. 28:19-20); it is Jesus' expectation—He left no Plan B (Acts 1:8); and Jesus modeled it for us (John 17:4).

Read Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV).

28:19 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

What were the different commands Jesus gave to His disciples? How do they all work together?

What is the central command Jesus gives His disciples? How are they to carry this out?

Jesus began this address—often referred to as the Great Commission—by talking about His authority. In light of this authority, He gave commands for the disciples then and for us now. He told the disciples to “go,” “make disciples,” “baptizing them,” and “teaching them” to obey His commands. All of this was so that they would go and reach people with the good news about Christ. The central command was to “make disciples.”

What impact should the Great Commission have on your interactions with others?

If we truly want to live in obedience to the Great Commission, then it impacts all of our friendships, the way we interact with our neighbors and other people we come into contact with every day, how we parent, and so on. In light of Jesus' command, all of our interactions become about showing Jesus to others and drawing them to Him.

Read Acts 1:8 (ESV).

1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

In Acts 1, Jesus gave His last instructions to the disciples before He ascended into heaven. Much like the Great Commission it was a call to reach people with the good news of the gospel and spread the message of Christ.

What does it mean to be Jesus' witness? What are we witnesses to?

Why was the Spirit important for the disciples' mission? Why is He important for ours?

Jesus told the disciples to wait because He knew that He was about to ascend to heaven. With His ascension the disciples would have been alone, but Jesus called them to wait for the Holy Spirit to come. The Spirit would be the power to accomplish the mission He had given them in the Great Commission and the mission He gave them here. The Holy Spirit is the power to live the Christian life and to reach others with the truth of Christ. He is essential to our work of disciple making.

Where do you feel called to be Christ's witness?

In what circumstances is it easy for you to share God's love with others? In what circumstances is it difficult?

The vision God has for His church is not only external—taking the gospel to the world. It also has an internal component that emphasizes fellowship, community, and loving one another within the body of Christ. The early church gives us a great picture of what the body of Christ looks like in action.

Read John 17:4-11 (ESV).

17:4 *"I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

6 *"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. 8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."*

Jesus glorified God the Father by making disciples. How does our disciple making also bring glory to God?

Jesus said His disciples knew certain things about God because of Jesus. What are some things you know about God because of Jesus?

Jesus had revealed the Father to the men the Father had given Him. No one can know God except as the Son reveals Him. Jesus is God in human flesh. Jesus reveals God's nature and His purpose to redeem people through faith in Jesus.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Discover how you can apply today's lesson to your life so you can impact the world.

We encourage people to Find Community in a Life Group. What is the value of connecting together with other believers in a local church, specifically in a Life Group? Have 2-3 people share why they value your Life Group.

What qualifications does one need to become a discipler to other believers? Can any believer be a mentor, instructor, or encourager to other believers? Why or why not?

What is God teaching you this week about your involvement in disciple making? Have you considered being disciplined in a D-Group so you can disciple others?