

What is the Great Commission?

Opening: Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.

Overview: The risen Jesus gives ordinary, imperfect disciples an extraordinary mission: make disciples of all nations. We go under His authority, invite people into a new identity through baptism, teach them to obey Jesus, and depend on His presence every step of the way.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- Who has had the greatest influence on the way you follow Jesus? What did that person do that helped you grow?
- When you hear the word “mission,” what emotions or assumptions come to mind?

DISCOVER

Read Together: Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8; and 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 together

Initial observations + Interpreting Scripture:

- **Initial Thoughts:** What word, command, or promise in Matthew 28 stands out to you?
 - **The Authority of Jesus:** Jesus begins with the declaration that all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Him.
 - Why must Jesus’ authority come before our activity?
 - How does the resurrection change the confidence with which disciples enter the world?
 - **The Mission to Make Disciples:** The central command is not simply to gather attention or share information, but to form apprentices of Jesus.
 - How is making disciples different from merely inviting someone to church, communicating facts, or convincing someone to pray a prayer?
 - A disciple learns to live with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did. Which part of that description challenges you most?
 - Where do going, baptizing, and teaching people to obey fit into the lifelong process of disciple-making?
 - **The Scope of the Mission:** Jesus sends His people to all nations, and Acts 1:8 widens the circle from nearby places to the ends of the earth.
 - Who might be outside your normal circle but inside the mission Jesus has entrusted to His church?
 - **The Presence of Jesus:** Jesus closes His commission with the promise, “I am with you always.”
 - How does His presence answer fear, inadequacy, or uncertainty and remind us that mission is something we do with Jesus rather than for Him?
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APPLY – Live as a Sent Disciple

The Great Commission is not reserved for pastors or specialists; every follower of Jesus is sent into the relationships and places God has already entrusted to them.

- **Name Your One:** Who is one person you can pray for and move toward with genuine friendship and gospel hope?
- **Practice What Jesus Taught:** What command of Jesus do you need to obey more fully before you can help someone else practice it?
- **Take One Step:** Choose one action this week: share your story, ask a spiritual question, read a Gospel with someone, invite someone into community, or encourage a younger believer.

RESPOND

These prompts can be used for prayer and introspection. Discuss them together or invite everyone to reflect on them throughout the week.

- **Self-Reflect:** Where have comfort, fear, or the belief that I am unqualified kept me from joining Jesus' mission?
- **Challenge:** Write down one name, one next step, and one person who will pray with you. Act on that step within seven days.
 - **Leader Note:** Next week we are starting a new series at Hope on the Sermon on the Mount. This is a great time to invite someone to come and learn about the heart and the teachings of Jesus.

GROUP PRAYER

Pray Together as a Group

Pray:

- **Jesus' Authority:** Praise the risen Jesus, who reigns over heaven and earth and sends His people with confidence.
- **Courage and Love:** Ask the Holy Spirit to make the group bold, humble, attentive, and compassionate witnesses.
- **People by Name:** Pray for friends, relatives, neighbors, and coworkers who do not yet know Jesus.
- **The Global Church:** Pray for disciples and churches among every nation, trusting Jesus to remain with His people to the end of the age.

CLOSING

End by reading Matthew 28:18-20 aloud once more. Remind the group that success begins with faithful obedience: we go under Jesus' authority, make disciples through His power, and trust His presence wherever He sends us.