

JESUS & THE GREAT COMMISSION

————— MATTHEW 28

MAIN TAKEAWAY

God has called every believer to preach the gospel and make disciples. God will give us the power and boldness to fulfill the Great Commission.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What are some memorable “final words” spoken throughout history?

What is significant about the Great Commission being Jesus’ final words before He ascended to Heaven? How does this make you consider your own final words one day (2 Timothy 4:6-8)?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 28:18-20

Jesus gave a command (Mark 16:15). How might believers treat Jesus’ commission as a suggestion to consider rather than a command to obey? What’s the difference?

These words are for every follower of Jesus Christ—not just the original twelve disciples or today’s “professionals.” What does this reveal about God’s plan and purpose for your life? How does it feel to be commissioned by Christ?

God will give us the power and boldness to fulfill the Great Commission (Acts 1:8). Pastor Greg said, “God does not call the qualified, but qualifies the called.” Why is the calling of God the enabling of God? How does this confront insecurity or fear?

Not sharing your faith can be a sin (James 4:17). How can this be a sin of omission? What may cause the Great Commission to become the “great omission” in someone’s life? How can you fight against this?

What exactly is the gospel? What is the good news and the bad news of this message (Romans 6:23)? Why must you communicate both?

Christ has the answer to emptiness, loneliness, guilt, and the fear of death. How does your personal meditation on this good news motivate you to share it with others?

We are not just called to preach the gospel, but to also make disciples (Colossians 1:28). What is the connection between evangelism and discipleship? Why is it impossible to separate the two?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Go into all of your world and share the gospel. Pastor Greg said we should think of evangelism as “FRAN-gelism,” meaning we should share the gospel with our Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors. Which of these groups is toughest for you to share your faith with? How does this study encourage or challenge you in this?

Pastor Greg shared about how he was discipled as a new Christian. Why is it important for a Christian to be discipled and to disciple others? What does this look like in your life? Why will you be spiritually revived when you help others learn to follow Jesus?

Read or recite John 3:16 together in your group. As Pastor Greg said, in what way are you “armed and dangerous” if you know the truth of this verse? How will you share it?

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for the Great Commission and for the power to do it. Ask God to give you the faith and courage this week to share the gospel with others. Pray for the Easter services at Harvest.