

## **Thursday: The Great Commission**

### **Passage: Matt 28:16-20**

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 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."

### **Questions:**

What are the verbs listed in Jesus' command?

Is this command for us or for the disciples?

What is Jesus' promise (v 20)?

### **Application:**

Write down your expectations and goals for the trip. Play a part in fulfilling the Great Commission today.

### **Awaken the wonder challenge**

Take a photo of something that represents to you how Jesus is with you today.

## **Friday: Serving Each Other**

### **Passage: John 13:1-17**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

### **Questions:**

Why didn't Peter want Jesus to wash his feet?

What does it mean to "wash one another's feet"?

What is Jesus' promise if we do it (v17)?

### **Application:**

Look out for opportunities today to serve someone. List some ways you can think of.

### **Awaken the wonder challenge**

Look for and take an opportunity to serve someone who can't do something back for you.

## **Saturday: Whats Your Power Source?**

### **Passage: Acts 1:1-5, 7-8**

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ...

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

### **Questions:**

Why did Jesus ask his disciples not to depart from Jerusalem (v4)?

What was the power from the Holy Spirit meant to accomplish in the disciples (v8)?

What does the word "witness" mean? Witness of what events? Witness to whom? In a court case, what qualities are needed to be a witness?

### **Application:**

In humility and faith, ask the Holy Spirit to give you power to be witnesses of Jesus. Write out your prayer to Him.

### **Awaken the wonder challenge**

Take a photo of something that inspires you to be a witness of Jesus.

## **Sunday: Moses and His Excuses**

### **Passage: Exodus 3:1-10**

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

### **Exodus 4:10-12**

Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

11 The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

### **Questions:**

What were Moses' excuses?

Have you ever given God excuses for not obeying him?

Who made you the way you are? Who can help us in spite of our limitations?

### **Application:**

Thank God for making you the way you are. Ask Him to use you today.

### **Awaken the wonder challenge**

Take a photo of something that represents how God made you.

## **Monday: Being Salt and Light**

### **Passage: Matt 5:13-16**

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

### **Questions:**

What two things does Jesus call us?

What are the functions of each?

How are you to be the light or salt to the world?

### **Application:**

Make the choice to let your light shine today. Don't hide it. How can you leave an impact on those you are reaching to today?

### **Awaken the wonder challenge**

Look for and take an opportunity to treat someone with love, even when it is a difficult thing to do

## **Tuesday: The Process to Salvation**

### **Passage: Romans 10:12-15**

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

14 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!”

### **Questions:**

List out the process leading up to a person calling on the name of God to save him. (Hint: it's a five step process.)

Which step are you at right now in this mission trip?

How do they refer to the feet of those bring the good news? Why?

### **Application:**

Take action to bring a person closer to calling on the name of the Lord today.

### **Awaken the wonder challenge**

Take a photo of something that represents a growth step for your faith

## **Wednesday: Responding to the Call**

### **Passage: Isaiah 6:1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

### **Questions:**

What did Isaiah experience before accepting God's call? How does it relate to your own Christian life?

Are you able to respond like Isaiah when God calls you to serve him? If not, what is stopping you?

### **Application:**

Is God calling you to a certain role or task? Step up in obedience.

### **Awaken the wonder challenge**

Take a photo of something that God is challenging you to do.

## Thursday

### **Morning Start-Up:**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. - Acts 1:8

The same Holy Spirit that came upon the Apostles then is the same Spirit who has brought you here now, and He has also given you power to be a witness for Christ in this place. God gives us strength for each day, but He gives power to His people for more than getting work done, but so that people will come to know who He is and His love for them. Work hard today to be a witness for Christ for those you serve and this community.

### **Devotional:**

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. - Ephesians 3:17b-18

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul spends about half of the letter telling the church who they are in Christ. In the second half, Paul then focuses more on how they ought to live. Before he ever tells them what they should do, he tells them who they are. And they cannot know who they are in Christ unless they know how intensely they are loved by God. Before Paul makes the transition from who they are to how they should be living, he writes this great prayer that he has been praying for the church in Ephesus.

He says that he has been praying that they would have power. That appeals to all of us on some level. We would all want to receive power in some way. Much of the time, we run away with that thought and this it is for the purpose of something other than what Paul intended. We would want to have power to do miraculous things and powerful works, but that's not why Paul prays for power. We may think that we could receive power from the Spirit so that we can be wise and fathom all mysteries and know the will of God, but that isn't it either.

The reason Paul prays for power for these people is so that they could come to understand how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ for them. The same prayer has been prayed for you. Don't let this be lost on you. The love that God has for you is so immense and so great that without the power of the Holy Spirit, you'll never be able to understand it. That is why Paul prays for power. We all need to be brought back to this from time to time and be reminded of just how much God loves us. Take some time to pray for this kind of power for yourself, your team, and for your family

### **Questions:**

In what ways were you (the team) a witness for Christ today?

Has something happened this trip that reminded you of how great God's love is for us?

What was your "takeaway"? What will you never forget about today?

### **Awaken the wonder challenge**

Look for an opportunity to say yes to God today, what is He prompting you to do that is outside of your comfort zone.



## **Friday**

### **Morning Start-Up:**

Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. - Colossians 1:24

What Paul is saying in this passage is not that there is something missing in Christ's sacrifice for your salvation, but that what is always lacking is for someone to suffer for the sake of others so that they can come to know the Gospel. This week, you have done that very thing so that people might come to know what Christ has done for them.

### **Devotional:**

Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me. - Philippians 2:17-18

In this book, Paul is taking time to encourage the church at Philippi. This church holds a special place in his heart as it is the first church that he planted in Europe. Paul is encouraging the church to live their lives out as servants of the most high God. He desires for them to live a life totally committed to the cause of Christ

The imagery of a drink being poured out is so final. Once the drink is emptied out, there is nothing left and there is no going back. That is exactly how we should live our lives and how you should end this trip. Pour yourself out for those you serve. Pour yourself out for the team. Give all the love and emotion that you have and trust that God will fill you back up. The only way to guarantee that you will have no regrets is to pour everything you have into the people we serve and the community. You've come all this way and done all of this work, so pair the words with the actions. Don't find yourself on the way home regretting not having said the things God had prompted you to say. As you serve today, look for opportunities to pour yourself out for the sake of the Gospel.

### **Questions:**

How do you feel now that you're at the end of the mission trip?

What did you pour yourself out the most with this week?

What was your "takeaway"?

What will you never forget about this week?

### **Awaken the wonder challenge**

Take a photo of something that inspires wonder and amazement for you.

**Saturday:** Share what God did in your life with a family member or friend when you get home.