

DIGGING DEEPER

Small Group Discussion Guide: Matthew 28:16–20

During this 5-week series in Matthew 8–10, we will watch the King in action. Jesus has just finished teaching with authority in the Sermon on the Mount, and now He puts that authority on display: over sickness, storms, and spiritual powers. Then He sends His followers out to join His mission. **Before you begin your discussion, take a moment to pray together.** Invite the Holy Spirit to open your hearts and minds to what He wants to show you. Ask Him to guide your conversation, help you listen well to one another, and reveal how He is inviting you to grow.

READ THE PASSAGE TOGETHER: Matthew 28:16–20

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Don't feel pressured to get through every question! Follow as the Spirit leads and spend your time on the questions that spark meaningful conversation.

1. **Read Matthew 28:16–17.** "When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted." The word for "doubt" means hesitation, the same word Jesus used with sinking Peter (14:31). Yet Jesus doesn't wait for them to sort it out. He "came to them." Where do worship and hesitation live side by side in you? What does it mean that Jesus comes toward hesitant followers?
2. **Read Matthew 28:18.** Jesus states, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." On another mountain, Satan offered Jesus "all the kingdoms of the world" if He would bow (4:8–9). Jesus refused and reached the throne by the cross, what Henri Nouwen called "downward mobility." What shortcuts to power or control tempt you? Why do you think that is?
3. **Read Matthew 28:19a.** Jesus states, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations." Once He said, "Do not go among the Gentiles" (10:5); now the mission is open to everyone. "Make disciples" is the one command, and a disciple is more than a convert; it's someone learning to follow Jesus for life. Who could our group walk alongside as they learn to follow Him?
4. **Read Matthew 28:19b–20a.** To be baptized "in the name" is literally "into the name," a pledge of allegiance to the King. Then Jesus says, "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you," including His words on forgiveness, loving enemies, and money (6:19–24). Which of Jesus' commands is hardest for you to keep? Why do you think that is?
5. **Read Matthew 28:20b.** Jesus promises, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew began by calling Jesus "Immanuel," "God with us" (1:23), and ends with the King keeping that promise. He sends His people without money or army, only His presence. Where do you most need His presence this week? How could you serve or give freely in response?

SHARE & PRAYER

As we watch the King in action in Matthew 8–10, we want to grow in recognizing the authority of Jesus in everyday life and in joining Him on His mission! We invite you to cultivate the practice of paying attention as you go about your week, pausing to reflect, noticing where you see Jesus at work, where He is asking you to trust His word, and who He might be sending you toward. As we learn to notice and name what the King is doing, we become more aware of His presence and more ready to take part in what He is doing. **Take on the weekly challenge to pay attention and come prepared to share with your group!**

- **SHARE:** Where have you seen God at work this week? Share a story, moment, conversation, answered prayer, unexpected provision, opportunity, or anything else that made you aware of God. (This could be in your own life, someone else's life, our church, or the world around you).
- **RESPOND:** What might God be inviting you to do, see, trust, change or participate in this week?
- **PRAY:** Share prayer requests and pray together. Incorporate this week's passage and ask: Where do we need to trust the King's authority and invite Him to act?



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MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE

Fair Oaks Church Sermon Podcast (Apple Pod & Spotify)
- Listen to Sunday messages posted weekly
- Listen to Cutting Room Floor episodes that further unpack sermons

UPCOMING EVENTS Learn more at fairoaks.church/events

- **2027 Mission Trip Applications Open** | Due by 11/30 | Submit online at fairoaks.church/missions
- **11/18: Thanksgiving Basket Packing Party** | 6:30-8p | Family Life Center | Help assemble Thanksgiving Baskets for families in our community!
- **11/21: Men's Breakfast** | 8-10a | Family Life Center, AMC | Men (18+) are invited for breakfast, fellowship, and time together
- **11/21: Free Grief Workshop Series (final session)** | 1:30p–3:30p | Kids & Youth Center – High School Classroom | Presented by David Howell, Counselor with CCA
- **11/22: Community Remembrance Service** | 1-2p | Wells Chapel | A community service to remember the dearly departed this holiday season | Facilitated by David Howell, from CCA
- **11/22–12/13: Toy Drive for Merry Marketplace** | Bring new, unwrapped gifts (about $25–$30) to the church lobby or church office | Learn more at fairoaks.church/events
- **12/2: Deck the Halls** | 4-6:30p | Family Life Center | Volunteers of all ages help prepare for Christmas Kickoff and Advent: room setup, gingerbread kits, candles, and more.
- **12/3: WFO Women's Brunch** | 9:30a-11:30a | Family Life Center (AMC Room) | Women of all ages welcome; guest speaker Liana Luna from Mustard Seed School, a program of Loaves & Fishes
- **12/6: Christmas Kickoff** | 10:30a | Worship Centyer | One family-friendly worship service (no 9a service due to the CIM marathon), followed by breakfast and gingerbread house decorating at 11:30a | Reserve kits ($30) at fairoaks.church/events
- **12/9: Hope Gathering Widows Group** | 5-7pm | Family Life Center, AMC | A place where widows of all ages can find hope and healing within a Christian community | Join us for a potluck dinner and fellowship.
- **12/11: Distribution Day at FO/OV Food Bank** | 9a-12:30p | Help pack and distribute food.
- **12/17: Merry Marketplace** | 2-6p | Family Life Center | Volunteers needed to help with setup, host parents (and kids!) from start to finish, wrap gifts, and clean up. Sign at fairoaks.church/events
- **12/18: Ditch the Parents: Christmas Edition** | 5-9p | Kids & Youth Center | For kids ages 3 years - 5th grade | Bounce houses, crafts, an epic snowball fight, dinner & a movie | Cost: $15/child, registration closes 12/11 at noon | Sign up at fairoaks.church/events

STAY INFORMED

Check The Weekly fairoaks.church/theweekly - All church news in one spot!