

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Proverbs 29:18 tells us that “Without vision the people perish”. Also translated “Without revelation the people cast off restraint”. Both translations remind us that vision is vital. It is our vision that reminds us of the ‘Why’ behind the ‘What’. It is our vision of what is ahead that shapes our behaviour in the here and now. This week we are looking at one of the key vision statements in the Bible – Matthew 28:16-20. It is a great opportunity to ask ourselves how God’s vision for our daily lives might transform how we see both the mundane and the miraculous.

God bless,

Simon (This week’s Life Group Guide was prepared by Simon Elliott, who is the Lead Elder at Everyday Church)

## **LIFE GROUP GUIDE** **Matthew 28:16-20**

**This week’s BIG IDEA:** God’s Kingdom vision is worked out in every aspect and arena of our lives.

**Please read Matthew 28:16-20**

1. This is a very well-known passage to many of us. Encourage those who have been following Jesus for a while to share how they have traditionally understood this passage?
2. Often preaching on this passage has focused on the word “Go”. Actually the imperative idea in this passage is “Make Disciples”. It is not wrong to encourage people to go to the nations with the gospel, but if the emphasis is actually on disciple making how might that change our application of these verses?
3. In his preach Simon pointed out that although making disciples is what we are called to do, it is not actually the vision part of this passage. Jesus vision is that people would obey what he had taught them, and his teaching focused on the Kingdom of God. Spend some time as a group finding parables and passages that speak about the Kingdom of God.. What do we learn about God’s Kingdom?

*[Leaders note: In Matthew’s Gospel Jesus also uses the phrase, Kingdom of Heaven. Some parables you might want to look at in Matthew’s Gospel: Matt 13:24-30, Matt 13:31-43, Matt 13:44-46, Matt 13:47-52, Matt 20:1-16, Matt 25:1-13.]*

4. Simon unpacked the Kingdom of God under 4 headings:
  - a. Salvation
  - b. Sanctification
  - c. Signs and Wonders
  - d. Social Action

Ask people to share which of these Kingdom areas they most naturally connect with and discuss how we encourage and help one another catch God’s heart and purposes for each area.

**Worship:** Read Psalm 46 together and spend some time thanking God that in an uncertain world he is in control. The Psalm encouraged us to be still before God and reminds us that there is a river who streams make glad the city of God. Make space to wait on God and to pray for one another to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit.