

COMMISSIONED

THE ART OF LIVING OUT THE WORDS, WAYS, & MISSION OF JESUS

Introduction to Commissioned **Welcome**

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"In his last command, Jesus said, 'Go make disciples...!' We have referred to this passage (found in Matthew 28:19-20) throughout church history as The Great Commission. The Lord loves to commission people- to entrust them with his words, to invite them to demonstrate His ways to the world, and to partner in his mission of redemption, restoration, and reconciliation. Like we read in Isaiah 61:1, that says, "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me. Because the Lord has anointed and commissioned me." – Jesus commissions all of His followers. Not just leaders or prophets or priests. But every follower of Jesus.

You've been commissioned by Jesus to:

- Live out Hope through word and action
- Co-create with God
- Partner with Jesus in the restoration of all of creation

You are anointed and commissioned to impact every sphere of influence around you. That's the heartbeat behind this discipleship experience.

My name is Kiersten Telzerow. Welcome to Commissioned. We are SO glad you have chosen to join us this semester. Now, for the next ten weeks, we will be diving into the story of God, the story of you, and the story of National Community Church. At NCC, we believe a disciple is one who studies the WORDS of Jesus, imitates the WAYS of Jesus, and partners in the MISSION of Jesus.

My prayer is that this would be a transformative space for you. A safe space to grow, ask questions, and to stretch yourself in community. My hope is that this space will penetrate every

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area you interact with on a daily basis— with your family, with your coworkers at the office, your neighborhood, the salon— because we believe when we are molded and shaped by His image— the metamorphosis, the transformation begins to flow out of us - it oozes out of us as a byproduct. When disciples are made in the way of Jesus, it leads to the flourishing of communities, and the impact ripples throughout generations.

In naming this discipleship experience, “Commissioned,” we drew it from THE Great Commission, found in Matthew 28:19-20 as I mentioned earlier: *“To go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* We live it out. We don’t hold it in, keeping it for ourselves. Instead, we outwardly focus on making Jesus’ final command, our first concern.

Commissioned is not a one time experience but a lifelong journey. An empowered lifestyle that affects us holistically— heart, mind, body, spirit, and soul—as we learn to be molded and shaped more in His image. It’s not an intellectual exercise or a checklist. But rather, discipleship is a Holy Spirit-empowered process that takes place within the context of community as we learn to live our lives from Jesus and invite others to do the same.

That’s Commissioned in a nutshell. Now, I want to share a few logistical things about this experience. Each week, you will receive three days of podcast content for you to engage in as well as a Bible reading plan that correlates to the weekly topic. Try habit stacking. One of the most freeing things for me was learning that I could create my own rhythms. For me, reading Scripture before bed is sometimes my most impactful reading time. I fall asleep meditating on the Word. Habit stack. Try to mix the daily content with the things you already do on a daily basis. Or if evenings don’t work for you, try reading Scripture while you’re enjoying your morning cup of coffee. Perhaps you are listening to the content during your commute to work. You can even engage with the content all throughout the day.

We hope that this content will allow you to go deeper in conversation with each other. Feel free to use the podcasts as prompts or starting points. In addition, there will be a leader and participant guide to follow along with. Then, at the end of the experience, we will walk through how to put together a discipleship plan if you will, that unpacks what it looks like to walk daily with God, in community, partnering with Jesus as a part of an immersive lifestyle, not just a ten week experience.

At the end of the day, you will get out of Commissioned what you put into Commissioned. At NCC we want to be a part of the story that God is writing in you, and we invite you to be a part of the story that God is writing in us. So I’d encourage you to go all in. Dive deep. Take the plunge. And hopefully at the end of the ten weeks, you will come back and either lead a Commissioned group or invite someone else to Commissioned— that’s how invested we are and believe wholeheartedly in this space.

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This is just the beginning – join us for our upcoming gathering as we kickoff the start of Commissioned.

I am so excited you will be joining us for this 10-week journey.

Let's go!