

CHAPTER 9: THE GREAT COMMISSION

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY PROGRAM-PIPES INTERNATIONAL

In this chapter, we will study four lessons as outlined below:

Lesson 1: The Great Commission

Lesson 2: Practical steps in fulfilling the Great Commission

Lesson 3: Water Baptism

Lesson 4: The Twelve Disciples of Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

Over two thousand years ago, Jesus sent out His disciples (followers) to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). Today, the Christian community continues to spread the gospel to those who do not know Jesus. The responsibility to reach the world and to disciple men and women lies in the body of Christ or the church. Every Christian must be involved in the Great Commission. A new believer is disciplined to become mature so that he or she can disciple others.

Paul disciplined Timothy and asked him to entrust the teaching to faithful men who would teach others. Today, we need to establish disciple-making movements to help accelerate disciples making disciples. These movements will transform communities, establish fellowships, plant churches, and turn the world to Jesus.

We were created for specific purposes.

- a) Jeremiah 1:4-5: Jeremiah was called to be a prophet to the nations.
- b) Matthew 3:3: John the Baptist was called to prepare the way of the Lord.
- c) Exodus 3:10: Moses was called to deliver the Israelites from the bondage in Egypt.
- d) Matthew 4:19: The disciples of Jesus were called to be fishers of men.

LESSON 1: GREAT COMMISSION

Readings: Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 4:19, and Acts 1:8

We'll look at three areas:

i) Definition of the Great Commission.

It is sending the disciples of Jesus Christ to the whole world to preach the Good News- Matthew 28:18-20.

Jesus commissioned His disciples and all those who would believe in Him.

The Great Commission is the core mission of the disciples of Jesus.

ii) The importance of the Great Commission.

Why do you think the Great Commission is an integral part of believers while here on earth? Discuss.

iii) The process of fulfilling the Great Commission.

Where do we start and what do we do? Acts 1:8

LESSON 2: PRACTICAL STEPS IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION

(GO, PRAY, GIVE)

A) GO

Go and preach to every creature. Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16.

B) PRAY

Pray for those in the mission fields and for the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers. Matthew 9:35-38, Ephesians 6:19-20.

C) GIVE

We can support missionaries, churches, and ministers financially to reach the lost. Luke 8:1-3, Philippians 4:15-16, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Luke 6:38

Bible Study Discussion Questions

1. How often do you share the gospel? / How often do you talk about your faith?
2. What prevents you from sharing the gospel?
3. Whom did God use to share the gospel with you? Share a brief story of the way you came to faith in Christ.
4. Describe some experiences you've had when you presented the Good News to an unbeliever.
5. Are we seeing more people dedicated to reaching the world with the gospel due to our ministry?

LESSON 3: WATER BAPTISM

One of the four things that Jesus commissioned His disciples to do was baptize those who would believe in him. Matthew 28:19-20.

The following four questions need to be addressed:

- a) **What is baptism?** – Baptism comes from the Greek word "baptizo" which means to immerse. It is an outward expression of what has happened within. Romans 6:3-4.
- b) **Why do we need to be baptized?** – Matthew 28:19, 3:13-17.
- c) **When should one be baptized?** – Acts 2:40-41; 8:34-39, Acts 22:14-16
(After being saved)
- d) **How should one be baptized (Method)?** – Mat 3:13-17, Acts 8, 36-38.
(By immersion according to the scriptures)

Discussion

- a) Why was Jesus baptized? Did he need to be baptized? – Matthew 3:13-17
- b) What reason do people give for not being baptized in water today?
- c) What would be your response to someone who is not convinced about the need for water baptism?

LESSON 4: THE TWELVE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Luke 6:12-16, Mark 1:16-20.

- a) Discuss the calling of the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ.
- b) Why did Jesus need to work with the twelve disciples?
- c) Name the twelve Disciples in the order that Jesus called them. John 1: 35-51
- d) From calling the twelve disciples by Jesus, what do you learn about ministry and teamwork?
- e) Discuss why we need to prepare the next generation for reaching out to the lost with the Good News.