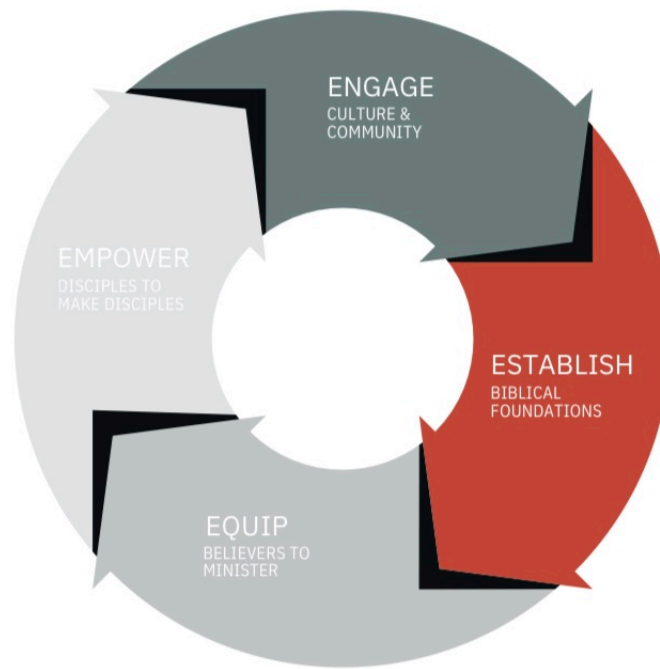


The mission of Rise Up Church is to raise disciples, empower families, and revitalize neighborhoods by the transformational power of the gospel. At Rise Up Church, our discipleship rhythm shapes how we live and expressed in four key movements that we call the 4E's. It is all about following Jesus and helping others do the same.



The purpose of our Koinonia Gatherings is to establish people in biblical foundations by building Christ-centered connections. We believe the Scriptures teaches that life change happens best in community, as we grow together in God's Word and are led by the Holy Spirit.

Below, you'll find a sermon-based guide from the most recent sermon to help lead a Rise Up Church Koinonia Gathering, along with a five day devotional designed to help you apply the sermon throughout the week.

Koinonia Gather Leaders Guide

Sermon Title: Missional or Purposeless | Disciple or Wanderer

Focal Exegesis: Jesus commands us to live missional on His mission, by His method, and with His presence. (Matthew 28:16–20)

Leader Guide

Begin with prayer: ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Encourage participation: invite everyone to share and reflect.

Keep the focus on Jesus: not just head knowledge, but heart transformation.

Shepherd the group: be sensitive to struggles, doubts, and opportunities for care.

In-Depth Summary of the Sermon

Jesus' last words in Matthew 28 are a call to live with purpose, not drift in purposeless wandering. His mission is clear: go and make disciples of all nations. He provides not only the mission but the method—baptizing and teaching obedience—and the miracle of His abiding presence. We are challenged to choose: will we be missional disciples who live with purpose, or wanderers without direction? His authority, His Spirit, and His presence empower us to step into His global mission.

Point 1: The Mission – Missional or Purposeless

Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth, so His command to 'Go and make disciples' is not optional. Without His mission, our lives drift toward lesser pursuits—success, comfort, or recognition—that ultimately leave us empty. Living missional means living with eternal purpose: making disciples in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

Application Question: Where in your life are you tempted to live for a smaller mission instead of Jesus' mission?

Leader Notes:

Draw out examples: career, family, money, comfort.

Encourage practical stories of stepping out of comfort zones.

Remind them that obedience begins with trusting Jesus' authority.

Point 2: The Method – Disciple or Wanderer

Jesus' method is baptism into a new identity and teaching obedience to His commands. Wrong methods—shallow teaching, cultural conformity, manipulation—produce wanderers who know about Jesus but do not obey Him. True discipleship is relational, transformational, and rooted in God's Word. Without following Jesus' method, even believers can drift.

Application Question: Are you living as a disciple who follows Jesus' method, or as a wanderer drifting without direction?

Leader Notes:

Highlight the difference between information and transformation.

Emphasize obedience: knowing Scripture and living it out.

Encourage leaders to model discipleship in daily life.

Point 3: The Miracle – Presence that Empowers

Jesus promises, 'I am with you always, to the end of the age.' His presence is the miracle that turns wanderers into disciples and empowers us to make disciples. Without His presence, we wander, burn out, or produce followers of ourselves. With His presence, we are filled with courage, peace, and endurance.

Application Question: How have you experienced Jesus' presence empowering you in a situation where you felt weak or inadequate?

Leader Notes:

Invite testimonies of God's presence in difficult seasons.

Encourage group members to lean on Jesus, not self-strength.

Remind them that His presence is both comfort and empowerment.

Defeater Beliefs (Ways to Overcome Doubts)

"I can't deal with those people" → Jesus' authority is greater than cultural barriers.

"I don't know enough Scripture" → Disciple-making is Spirit-empowered; growth comes through obedience and community.

"I feel alone" → Jesus promises His presence, now and forever.

"I'm not equipped" → God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Mission (Matthew 28:18–19a)

Reflect on Jesus' authority. If He has all authority, how should that shape your daily decisions?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to live missional, not purposeless. Give me courage to obey Your call to 'Go.'

Day 2: The Wrong Missions (Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12:13–14)

Consider how pursuing success, money, or recognition leaves us empty.

Prayer: Father, guard me from chasing missions that do not last. Redirect my heart to Your eternal purpose.

Day 3: The Method (Matthew 28:19b–20a)

Jesus' method is baptism into new identity and teaching obedience. How are you being transformed, not just informed?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, teach me to obey Jesus' commands and help me lead others into true discipleship.

Day 4: The Presence (Joshua 1:5, Matthew 28:20b)

Jesus promises His presence always. Reflect on a moment when you felt His presence in weakness.

Prayer: Lord, remind me that You are with me always. Strengthen me to endure and to walk in Your presence.

Day 5: Living Missional (Acts 1:8)

God's Spirit empowers us to be witnesses to the ends of the earth. Where can you start being missional today?

Prayer: Father, fill me with Your Spirit and send me to make disciples in my home, work, and community.