

Hope Revealed

Great Commission

TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

BIG IDEA: The Mission of the Church

With your Bible, read Matthew 28:16-20.

Consider the 3-fold purpose of the church – Move Up (connect to Christ), Move Out (connect to Culture) Move In (connect the culture to Christ). Why does the third have special significance in light of eternity?

Compare the forms of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46ff, John 20:21, Acts 1:7). What do they uniquely emphasize?

Who was Jesus speaking to in these verses? If someone told you Jesus was only talking to the disciples here and we need not fulfill this how would you answer?

What authority has been given to Jesus? (Eph 1:22; Phil 2:5-11; Col 1:15-20; Heb 1:1-4)

- Who was it given by?
- What is it over?
- What bearing does this declaration have what is to follow?

Evangelism, discipleship and missions are all out- workings of the Great Commission. How are they similar? How are they different?

What do you make of the saying, “One thing that Christians have in common with non-Christians is neither likes evangelism. It makes them both unhappy.” Would you agree with this? Does it have to be this way?

What is a disciple? (Matt 10:24-25; Luke 6:40, 9:23-25; John 8:31-32) What does it mean to “make disciples”?

- What method did Jesus use in training the twelve?
- How could this method be followed in our context today?
- Do you think the church can improve in this area? How?

Verse 19 would be better translated, “As you are going...make disciples.” How does this alter the way we might interpret the Great Commission?

What are some of the implications of the promise made by Jesus “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (v.20)? What encouragement does this give us in this great task?

Questions for gospel transformation:

1. Where in my life can others see that I am following Jesus more closely?
2. How is it clear that I am operating in my “sweet spot” according to my spiritual gift?
3. Am I finding joy in serving my church in a meaningful way? Why?
4. Would I want everyone I know to pray and study the Bible like me?
5. Do I have 2-3 people outside and inside of my family that I am helping to grow spiritually?
6. What have I done lately to “build a bridge” for the purpose of sharing the gospel?

Use these prayer tips to talk it over with God and to expand your conversations both in person and online:

- Commit to God in prayer that you will strive to depend on Christ and the gospel, especially during dark times.
- Pray for someone you know who’s dealing with a tragedy or going hard times. Ask God to comfort them.

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week to help you better understand why we endure difficult times and how you can build your trust in God.

Link to Life: Children

Help your boys and girls give a simple, positive witness to their friends and family, and so do their part even now to “make disciples.” How? Cut crown-shaped badges from cardboard. On the base print “I choose.” Then help your boys and girls cover the rest of the crown with bright, aluminum or metal foil. Tape a safety pin to the back of the crown so it can be worn on shirt or blouse.

Explain that the badge indicates “I choose King Jesus.” If someone asks about the badge, a child can explain that Jesus died and came alive again, and He is both Savior and Lord. The badge says that the child has chosen Jesus, and reminds others that they can choose to be Jesus’ followers too.

Don’t let the conversation stop here. Keep talking It over online.

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