

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions
week of 6/14/26

Summary

In this sermon drawn from Matthew 10, Pastor Mark explored how Jesus called His twelve disciples and gave them remarkable authority to drive out demons, heal the sick, raise the dead, and proclaim that the kingdom of heaven had come near in the person of Jesus Christ. Pastor Mark emphasized that this was not a small or cautious act. Jesus gave this authority to disciples who were still very much in the making, people who would later deny him, misunderstand His mission, and even betray Him. Yet Jesus commissioned them anyway, because the harvest was plentiful and the workers were few.

The central challenge of the sermon was that the same authority given to those early disciples has been given to us. Through the Great Commission in Matthew 28, Jesus, who holds all authority in heaven and on earth, has commissioned every disciple to go and make disciples. Pastor Mark called the church to stop seeking the world's permission to proclaim Jesus as Lord and to embrace practical, everyday ways of bearing witness, whether through serving at Vacation Bible Party, going on mission trips, inviting someone to church, giving financially, or simply wearing a cross as a visible reminder of whose we are. We are disciples in the making, commissioned to make other disciples, and we are never doing it alone.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before you today as your disciples, still being shaped and formed by your grace. As we open your Word together, we ask that you quiet our hearts and open our minds to what you want to speak to us today. We do not come with all the answers, but we come trusting that you are the one who equips and sends. Holy Spirit, move among us in this time together. Help us to hear not just with our ears but with our hearts. May this discussion draw us closer to you and to one another, and may we leave here more willing to embrace the mission you have placed before us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you have been really excited to tell someone about recently, whether it was a restaurant, a show, a product, or an experience? What made you want to share it?

Key Verses

- Matthew 10:1
- Matthew 9:37-38
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Luke 10:17

Questions

1. Pastor Mark pointed out that Jesus gave authority to disciples who were still very much in the making, people who would later deny him, misunderstand him, and even betray Him. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus chose to work through imperfect, still-growing people?
2. Jesus told His disciples to pray for workers to be sent into the harvest field, and then He turned around and sent them. Have you ever prayed for something and later realized God was calling you to be part of the answer? What was that experience like?
3. The sermon described the proclamation that the kingdom of heaven has come near as perhaps the most remarkable exercise of authority given to the disciples. Why do you think proclaiming that message might be harder or more significant than even healing the sick or driving out demons?
4. Pastor Mark expressed a lament that Christians have been culturally conditioned to keep their faith private, while other faiths are often more public about theirs. Do you agree with that observation? What pressures have you personally felt to keep your faith quiet?

5. Matthew 28:18-20 makes clear that the Great Commission is given to all disciples, not just the original twelve. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus has given you authority to participate in His mission?
6. The sermon suggested that sometimes the simplest act, like inviting someone to church, can be the beginning of their journey to knowing Jesus. Is there someone in your life right now who you sense God might be nudging you to invite? What is holding you back?
7. Pastor Mark closed by reminding the congregation that Jesus promised to be with us always as we go and make disciples. How does the promise of Christ's presence change the way you think about stepping into the mission He has given you?

Life Application

This week, take one concrete step to exercise the authority Jesus has given you as His disciple. It does not have to be dramatic. You might invite someone to church, wear a cross or another visible symbol of your faith, pray specifically for one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus, or volunteer for an upcoming ministry opportunity. Ask God each morning this week to show you one person he is placing in your path, and trust that He will give you the words and the courage you need. Remember, you do not have to have it all figured out. Jesus commissions disciples who are still in the making.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus gave His disciples extraordinary authority to heal, deliver, and proclaim the kingdom of heaven, not because they were fully formed or fully faithful, but because the need was great and the harvest was plentiful.
- The most remarkable exercise of that authority was not healing or casting out demons, but proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven had actually come near in the person of Jesus Christ.

- Through the Great Commission in Matthew 28, Jesus has given every disciple the same authority and the same mission: to go and make disciples of all nations, empowered by the one who holds all authority in heaven and on earth.
- We cannot excuse ourselves from the mission simply because we feel unqualified. Jesus intentionally commissions disciples who are still in the making to go and make other disciples.
- Practical, everyday acts such as inviting someone to church, giving financially, serving in ministry, and publicly identifying as a follower of Jesus are all legitimate and powerful ways to participate in the mission Christ has given us.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the reminder today that you have not left us on the sidelines. You have given us authority, your authority, to go and proclaim that heaven has come to earth in you, that you are Savior and Lord of all. Forgive us for the times we have shrunk back, sought permission from the world, or convinced ourselves that we were not ready or qualified enough. We confess that we are still disciples in the making, and we are grateful that you commission us anyway. As we leave this time together, send us out with courage and compassion. Help us to see the harassed and helpless around us the way you see them, as a harvest that is plentiful and ready. Give us eyes to notice, words to speak, and hearts willing to act. And remind us, Lord, that we never do this alone. You have promised to be with us always, to the very end of the age. We trust that promise today. In your mighty and matchless name we pray. Amen.