

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions
week of 6/21/26

Summary

This sermon focused on Jesus' commissioning of His disciples to go out and make other disciples, drawing from Matthew 10 and Matthew 28. Pastor Mark emphasized that Jesus gave His disciples authority to proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, and drive out demons, not because they were fully qualified, but because the harvest was plentiful and the mission was urgent. Every follower of Jesus is a disciple in the making, and participating in the mission is actually the most effective way to grow in faith. Waiting until we feel competent will mean we never act, so Jesus enlists imperfect people on purpose.

The sermon also honestly addressed the cost of discipleship. Jesus never promised the mission would be easy or popular. He warned his disciples they would face hostility, betrayal, and persecution. Yet He sent them out anyway. Pastor Mark challenged the congregation to be more afraid of displeasing God than of losing the favor of others, and to embrace their God-given authority to witness, invite, serve, and make disciples in their everyday lives, even when it is costly.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for gathering us together today. As we open your Word and reflect on what it means to follow Jesus and make disciples, we ask that you quiet our hearts and open our minds. Remove any distractions or fears that might keep us from hearing what you want to say to us today. Give us courage to receive your truth honestly, and help us to leave this time not just informed but transformed. We trust that your Spirit is present among us right now. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you have tried for the first time in your life even though you did not feel fully ready or qualified to do it?

Key Verses

- Matthew 10:1
- Matthew 10:7-8
- Matthew 10:16
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Matthew 10:28-31

Questions

1. Jesus gave His disciples authority to do the very things He had been doing, even though they were only about a year and a half into following Him. What does it say about Jesus that He trusted such imperfect and still-learning people with such a significant mission?
2. Pastor Mark said that the difference between those who are actively engaged in the mission of Christ and those who are not is not competence or calling, but priority and willingness. Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
3. The sermon suggested that helping others become disciples actually makes better disciples out of us. Can you think of a time when serving or teaching others helped you grow in your own faith?
4. Jesus warned His disciples in Matthew 10 that following Him and proclaiming His name would bring hostility, betrayal, and even persecution. How does that honest warning from Jesus shape the way you think about sharing your faith?
5. Pastor Mark shared a personal moment when he felt God say to Him, 'You need to be more afraid of me than your people.' What does it look like practically to fear God more than we fear the disapproval of others?
6. The sermon described Christianity as never being meant to be a spectator sport. In what areas of your faith life do you feel like you have been more of a spectator than a participant? What might it look like to step into a more active role?

7. Pastor Mark mentioned many ways the church is already engaged in making disciples, from VBS to mission trips to greeting ministries to small groups. Which of these opportunities, or others like them, do you feel drawn to explore or get more involved in?

8. Jesus said in Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) that all authority in heaven and on earth had been given to Him, and that authority is the basis for His commission to us. How does knowing that Jesus has all authority change the way you approach the fears or hesitations you have about participating in the mission?

Life Application

This week, take one concrete step to move from spectator to participant in the mission of Jesus. This could mean inviting someone to church, signing up to serve in a ministry you have been curious about, starting a conversation with a neighbor or coworker about your faith, or simply committing to wear a visible symbol of your faith as a conversation starter. Whatever step you choose, do not wait until you feel fully ready. Trust that Jesus has already given you the authority you need, and ask Him each morning this week to give you the courage to use it.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus intentionally commissions disciples who are still learning and growing, because every follower of Christ is always in the process of becoming a better disciple. Waiting until we feel qualified means we will never act.

- Participating in the mission of making disciples is the most effective way to grow in our own faith. Serving, teaching, and witnessing to others shapes us into better followers of Jesus.

- The mission of Christ is not without cost. Jesus was honest with his disciples that proclaiming His name could bring hostility and hardship, yet He sent them out anyway. His expectations do not change because the mission is difficult.

- We are called to fear God more than we fear the disapproval of others. Seeking the favor of people over the pleasure of God undermines our witness and our integrity as disciples.
- God has given every believer authority to participate in the mission, whether through inviting others, serving in the church, giving generously, or simply living openly as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the reminder today that you have not called us to sit on the sidelines. You have given us authority, your authority, to go and make disciples. Forgive us for the times we have let fear, comfort, or a desire for approval hold us back from the mission you have placed before us. As we leave this time together, send us out anyway. Give us courage to speak your name, to serve in your name, and to invite others into the life you offer. Remind us that we do not do this in our own strength, but in yours. And may we one day hear you say, well done, good and faithful servant. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.