

Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

Text: Matthew 28:16–20

Theme: *The Authority of the Risen Christ and Our Call to Follow*

1. Opening Connection

Share & Reflect

- Begin by sharing how you did with your **deep practice commitment** from last week.
 - If this is your first time joining, share briefly how you’ve been doing in your walk as a disciple of Jesus lately.
 - Remember: this isn’t about perfection—it’s about progress, honesty, and growing together.
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2. Get to Know You (Quick Connection Question)

If you could meet one person who truly shaped history, who would it be—and why?
(Encourage each person to share briefly. Then connect that longing to Jesus as the One who truly changes the world.)

3. Learning Together

Simplified Sermon Focus: Matthew 28:16–18

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’”

Key Insights

1. **The Gathering of Imperfect Disciples** – They obeyed Jesus’ direction but still wrestled with doubt. Discipleship doesn’t begin with perfect faith but with a willing heart.
2. **The Response of Worship and Doubt** – In the presence of the risen Christ, worship and hesitation coexist. Jesus meets them there.

3. **The Declaration of Authority** – Before giving the Great Commission, Jesus reveals His divine authority—He is Lord over heaven and earth. All mission flows from who He is, not what we can do.
 4. **The Foundation for Mission** – The call to “Go” rests on the authority and presence of Jesus, not human skill or confidence.
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4. Discussion — Bloom’s Taxonomy Questions

Remember

- Where did Jesus tell the disciples to meet Him?
- What did Jesus say had been given to Him?

Understand

- Why do you think Matthew includes that “some doubted” even after seeing Jesus?
- How does this detail help you relate to the disciples?

Apply

- How does Jesus’ authority change how we think about sharing our faith or serving others?
- What does it mean to obey Jesus’ direction even when we have questions or fears?

Analyze

- What connection do you see between worship and mission in this passage?
- How does Jesus’ authority serve as the foundation for discipleship and outreach?

Evaluate

- In what ways do we sometimes act as if authority belongs to us—or to the world—rather than to Jesus?
- How can acknowledging Jesus’ authority free us from fear or hesitation in following Him?

Create

- Imagine Jesus standing before your small group saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.”

What might He ask your group to do next in your community, workplace, or relationships?

5. Storying Exercise

Scripture Story: The Calling of Peter (Luke 5:1–11)

Invite someone to read or retell the story aloud.

Summary:

Peter witnesses Jesus' power through the miraculous catch of fish. Overwhelmed, he falls to his knees—but Jesus calls him not to shrink back in fear but to follow and become a “fisher of people.”

Discussion:

1. How does Peter respond to Jesus' authority in this story?
 2. What fears or doubts might he have felt in that moment?
 3. How does Jesus transform Peter's ordinary work into kingdom purpose—and what does that teach us about living under His authority?
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6. Deep Practice Commitment

Take a few moments in silence to reflect and write:

What specific step will I take this week to live under Jesus' authority?

Examples:

- Obeying a prompting of the Spirit even when it feels uncomfortable.
- Starting each day by submitting your plans to Christ's leadership.
- Sharing your faith with someone you've been hesitant to talk to.

After writing, share your commitment briefly with the group for encouragement and accountability.

7. Closing Prayer Prompt

Invite someone to pray—or pray together.