



Connect Group Discussion Guide

Sunday Message - 8/30/20 | Andrew Kovar | Matthew 28:18-20

A NEW Commission – Written On Hearts!

Key Scriptures:

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:18–20

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

- Proverbs 18:1

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- 1 Peter 5:8

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

- Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4–7

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

- Ephesians 4:11–12

Message Highlights:

- Jesus did not give each of us an individual commission. He gave us all a collective mission that we live out together.
- It is not good for us to live in isolation. When we are isolated, we're an easy target.
- “Sin demands to have a man by himself. It withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him, and the more deeply he becomes involved in it, the more disastrous is his isolation.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Needing other people doesn't make you weak. It makes you human.
- The church is the Body of Christ. We experience connection with Christ by being connected in life with fellow believers.
- If there is something lacking in your relationship with God, it may be because you're lacking relationship with God's people.

- “The depth of care and discipleship that happens in groups simply can’t happen anywhere else in the life of the church.” - Jason Sniff

Conversation Starter:

- Describe a time when you had a huge task too big to handle on your own, but with the help of others it was accomplished. How did that make you feel? Was it easy or hard for you to let them help you?

Discuss the Message:

1. God says that it is not good for humans to live in isolation. So, why are we often so determined to figure out life all on our own?
2. Read the quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the message highlights above. What do you think Bonhoeffer is trying to say? In what ways have you seen the truth of his statement play out in the lives of people you know? How has it rang true in your own life?
3. What is the difference between an individual commission and a collective mission?
4. What is the best way for us to discover what each of us contribute to the mission?
5. Jason Sniff wrote, “The depth of care and discipleship that happens in groups simply can’t happen anywhere else in the life of the church.” Have you experienced this in group life? If so, what can you now do to help others experience it? If not, what steps do you need to take to find that or to help your group experience that?

Pray:

- Pray for one another.
- Ask God to bring to mind the people who you need to commit to connecting with in this season.
- Ask God to help us work together as a church to fulfill the mission of Jesus.
- Ask God to stir within each of us a sincere desire to live in community as Jesus did, and for us to experience the power of the Holy Spirit as we share life, truth, and mission with our small groups.