



## Connect Discussion Guide

5.23.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Matthew 28:18-20

### 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

*And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”*

- Acts 2:38–39

*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

*For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

- Romans 6:1–14

### Message Highlights:

- Jesus' life is full of teachings that require a response. We live in tension until we respond to him.
- The immersed life is the way of Jesus—to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus, a coheir and partner in the Kingdom of God. It is to be baptized into his death, burial and resurrection, and then to grow in a new identity through maturing in the ways of Jesus.
- Anyone who wants to live a life fully-immersed in Jesus should be fully immersed into Jesus through water baptism. It's what Jesus did, taught, commanded. It's what the early church did, taught, commanded.
- The “Great Commission” in Matthew 28:18-20 is a charge to immerse ourselves in Christ and faithfully keep responding to the newness of life growing within us.

**Conversation Starter:**

- Taking into account the past month of this sermon series, how would you describe the immersed life to someone who does not yet know Christ as their Saving King?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. Those who are immersed are called to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” We have this opportunity no matter what stage of life or occupation we currently find ourselves in; how does this commandment play out specifically in your life?
2. What does Jesus promise us in the last sentence of the book of Matthew? How does this promise allow you to take courage as you respond to the callings Jesus has placed on your heart? Alternatively, what are some misconceptions that could be construed from this promise?
3. Describe Paul’s reaction to the notion, “Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?” in Romans 6:1-2. Discuss with your group the significance of Paul’s reaction. In what ways does his reaction shed light on how our relationship with sin changes after we become immersed in Christ?
4. What does it mean to grow in our new identity as a follower of Jesus, a coheir/partner in the Kingdom of God? If you have been immersed, share with your group some of the ways in which “The old has passed away” and “the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).
5. Jesus’ life is full of teachings that create tensions in our life and demand a response. What kind of response do you currently feel led to? (i.e. immersion, repentance, worship, prayer, fasting, etc.) Share your response with your group, and help each other chart some next steps to take action on your response.

**Pray:**

*Father in Heaven, Thank you for entrusting us with the precious message of the Good News about your son, our King, Jesus the Christ! Empower us through your Holy Spirit to live out the command and commission you have given us to make disciples as we go. Embolden us as we baptize them into you Father, into your Son, and into your Holy Spirit. Guide us as we serve them and teach them all that Jesus has taught us. We long to live a life fully immersed in the life of your Son, Jesus. Amen.*