



## Connect Discussion Guide

09.05.21 Message | Steve Hill | Matthew 28:16-20

### Key Scriptures:

*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven...”*

- Matthew 7:21

*“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”*

- Matthew 16:24

*“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And 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. 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 28:16-20

*“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”*

- John 15:11

*“...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also...”*

- 2 Timothy 2:2

*“...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

- Hebrews 12:2

*“And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him...”*

- 1 John 2:3-4

### Message Highlights:

- After his resurrection, Jesus called a meeting of his friends and followers to give them an extremely important mission, what we call our “Great Commission.”
- The early church experienced incredible growth as Jesus’ disciples made disciples.
- We’re all experienced disciple-makers, whether we realize it or not.

- Discipleship movements happen when we prioritize: Obedience to Jesus over mere knowledge of him, relationships over individualism, accountability over secrecy, and rest over busyness.

**Conversation Starter:**

Steve shared that the reality is, we are all disciple makers. Whether you feel like this responsibility and privilege is yours or not, discuss with your group how this hits you. Does it feel like a burden, an exciting privilege, or something in between? Do you feel equipped?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. When Jesus gave his followers what we refer to as the “Great Commission,” it was the only recorded post-resurrection meeting that he called them to. Why was that conversation so important for Jesus to have with them?
2. What encouragement can we draw from how the first century church added and multiplied disciples? Talk about specific action steps we can take to be a church who moves for the sake of the gospel.
3. When we truly enjoy something, that enjoyment reaches its completion when we share that food, movie, experience, et cetera with others. We are naturally wired for disciple-making, but sometimes we opt to make disciples of things other than Jesus. Discuss this concept with your group, specifically talking about ways you can intentionally enjoy God’s presence this week and how that enjoyment might naturally lead to disciple making.
4. Steve noted that discipleship movements can happen here and now if we shift our priorities. Discuss some practical ways we can:
  - Prioritize obedience to Jesus over mere knowledge of him.
  - Prioritize relationships over individualism.
  - Prioritize accountability (openness/honesty) over secrecy.
  - Prioritize rest over busyness.
5. What is your personal next step in the mission of making disciples?

**Pray:**

*Father in Heaven, thank you for not only saving us from sin and death, but also for giving us purpose in life. We confess that we tend to pursue our own personal missions in a search for meaning, instead of getting in on the meaningful mission that you have called every one of us to. Help me to do my part in listening to Jesus and obeying his command to make disciples. I desire to experience the power of your Holy Spirit at work in my life. Show me where to start and who to share in this mission with. Then, grant me the grace to take the first step. Amen.*