

**Kingdom Vision: The Target**  
Growth Group Discussion  
Matthew 28:16-20

**Opening Questions** (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God's word.
- Everyone share: What is one goal that you hope to accomplish in the remaining months of 2021?
- Motivational speaker Zig Zigler was known for saying, "If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time." What does this saying mean? How do you think it applies to church life?

**Read** Matthew 28:16-20, and then discuss the following.

1. Setting the scene.
  - Put yourself in the place of one of these disciples. What are all the emotions you might be feeling?
  - Look at what Matthew says, in v. 17: "they worshiped him, but some doubted." Why do you think they doubted, even AFTER seeing Jesus resurrected?
  - How do you react knowing that some of Jesus' closest followers doubted? Curious? Comforted? Surprised? Outraged? Discuss.
  - In v. 18, Jesus speaks of his authority. What is the importance of this statement? What does it say about the mission he gives his disciples (and us, by extension)?
2. The Great Commission.
  - As we heard Sunday, only one verb in these verses is an imperative (a command), and it is underlined and bold here. Jesus' command literally reads, "Going, **make disciples** of all peoples, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
  - On Sunday, Josh described discipleship as a journey of both *being* disciples and *making* disciples.
    - What does it mean to *be* a disciple? Describe.
    - What does it mean to *make* a disciple? What is involved?
    - What is the difference between making converts and making disciples?
  - Have you ever been a disciple, mentee, or apprentice of another? Describe your favorite experience.
    - Are you living as a disciple? Are you teachable? Do you need to be mentored spiritually? What is the next step of your own discipleship?
  - Have you ever disciplined, mentored, or trained/taught another? Describe your most rewarding experience.
  - There are three participles that describe how we make disciples: Going, baptizing, and teaching.

- **Going.** Pastor Josh talked about how the commission to make disciples always takes place “as you go,” and sometimes requires us to go out of our way (such as overseas). What is the difference?
  - **Baptism.** Why is it significant that baptism is an initiation ceremony, rather than a graduation ceremony? How can we encourage disciples to take this first step of obedience?
  - **Teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. What does this aspect entail for your disciple-making journey?
  - What source of power do we find here for our disciple-making life?
3. Our church’s new vision statement begins as follows: ***We will make disciples of Jesus in the communities where we work and live, who will make disciples, locally and internationally.*** Discuss the components of this statement:
- *Make disciples...*
    - Does our church’s current structure encourage disciple-making relationships? Why or why not?
    - Are we (in this growth group) disciple-makers? Are you currently doing life-on-life discipleship with anyone?
    - If not, where do you see yourself nurturing one or more disciples of Jesus?
  - *In the communities where we work and live...*
    - Why is discipleship primarily local?
    - What connections has God given you in this local community, which you might strategically use for disciple-making purposes?
  - *Who will make disciples...*
    - Why is it important that the disciples we cultivate also make disciples?
    - How can we teach them to do this?
    - What skills might we need to learn or teach in order to make disciples who make disciples?
  - *Locally and internationally.*
    - How can our church body have an international impact without ever leaving town?
    - Is there anyone in your current sphere with whom you need to spend some time, in this interest?
    - How can we be more strategic as a church about this facet of our vision?

**PRAYER:**

- Pray with regard to the disciple-making issues that have come up. Pray for God’s leading as our church seeks to fulfill this vision.
- Take time also to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.