

CORE COMPETENCIES

Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

Core Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- **Single-Mindedness**
“I focus on God and His priorities for my life.”
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility

Making disciples. You may have heard those words many times, but haven't been exactly sure what they mean. Is it about dropping everything to follow Jesus around? Is it something for the advanced Christian, a kind of elite spiritual activity? No, actually this is the primary marching order that Jesus gave His followers on the day He left this earth physically. It's what you and I are supposed to be giving our lives to. As you dig into the passage this week, allow God to show you how central and critical the mission that Jesus gave us really is. I pray that Jesus' words will ring as strong and true in our ears today as they did for those men all those years ago.

On a Mission from God, (and so are you!)

Richard Gotthardt, Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Day 1: Authority Given

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Today we will focus on verse 18 and look at some of the surrounding passages to gain an understanding of the context for this week's passage.

Jesus has just been crucified and buried. Read Matthew 28:1-20 to see the details of the events following Jesus' burial.

Reread Matthew 28:16-18. Jot down some notes in the space below answering the following questions: Who was present? Where were they at? What does the passage tell us about the people who are present?

Put yourself in the “shoes” of these disciples. They had just watched their leader be brutally beaten and murdered. He has taught them of God's greatness and strength and yet, from their perspective, He pitifully hung on a cross and allowed Himself to be killed. Now He has risen from the dead and is giving His closest followers some final instructions. Jesus begins this instruction by affirming the authority and power that He has. Why do you think that He did that?

Who had given Him this authority? What does this tell you about the person of Jesus?

Jesus was given authority over all of heaven and earth. This means you and me, too—every area of our lives.

Now think on your life over the last week. Are there areas of your life in which you, whether you intend to or not, are not recognized or placing yourself under His authority? Take a few moments to confess these to God. Ask Him to help you recognize His authority and to place your entire life, not just parts of it, under His authority.

Day 2: Therefore...GO

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

Yesterday we focused on Jesus' statement of authority. Today we will focus on verse 19. This verse starts out with, *therefore* which tells us that this verse is connected to the truth in the previous verse. They are linked ideas—one is dependent on the other.

There are two aspects to this first command (actually it's a participle- connected to the central command- the verb- of making disciples) of *go*. One aspect focuses on the idea of *as you go* make disciples and the other is to *actually physically relocate permanently or temporarily* for the purpose of making disciples. Both of these interpretations fit Jesus' instruction here. Because of Jesus' authority we are commanded to go and make disciples— in either or even both ways.

Reread verses 18-19? What is the first command given in verse 19? What is the second command?

FOCUS—“Look Out”

Jan 9–Jan 15, 2006

Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20;
Acts 10

Engage

Connecting Scripture with Everyday Life

There are two aspects to this first command of “go.” One aspect focuses on the idea of *as you go* make disciples and the other is to *actually physically relocate permanently or temporarily* for the purpose of making disciples. Both of these interpretations fit Jesus’ instruction here. Because of Jesus’ authority, we are commanded to “go and make disciples”— in either or even both ways. Can you think of a recent example in your life in which you shared about Jesus with someone through words or actions (*as you went*) in the course of your regular, everyday life?

How about a time when you intentionally went to a different neighborhood, community, country, etc. in order to share about Jesus? Have you ever sensed God’s calling in your life to do that?

In closing today, ask God to help you understand how His authority in your life might cause you to grow in obedience to His command to *go*.

Day 3: Make Disciples

Slowly read through Matthew 28:18-20 again today. Reread verse 19.

What is the second command (the central one, actually) in this verse?

Think on Jesus’ movement in the gospels. What were some of the ways that He called people out of sin to follow Him? Think about His conversation with the woman at the well (John 4:1-26); or the way He called fishermen to follow Him (Matthew 4:18-20).

What are some ways you could invite others around you to follow Jesus, or even to take another step closer to Him? Be specific. Who would that be? How might you do it?

In verse 8, we are called to do take three actions in our worship of God. What are these actions?

Ask God to help you notice opportunities to invite people to follow Him and to give you the courage to live out this central command of His—making disciples.

Day 4: Baptize and Teach

Read Matthew 28:18-20. Reread verses 19-20.

What is the third command (under the central one of disciple-making) given in verse 19?

Baptism was and is important because it is a public declaration of the spiritual transformation taking place in one’s life when you become a follower or disciple of Jesus. If you have been baptized, think back on your baptism. How was your baptism a witness to others of your faith? What made it meaningful to you?

If you have not been baptized, this might be a good next step of obedience to God. Is there anything holding your back from this public declaration of faith? Who would you invite to your baptism so that they can know of your obedience to Jesus?

What is the command given in verse 20?

How are you teaching others around you? What are different ways to teach others? If we’re to teach others to obey everything He has commanded, what would that mean? Do you need to grow in knowledge of what Jesus commanded? How would you do that?

Pray and ask God to show you today an area in which you need to obey Him more fully. Confess this and ask Him for help in both understanding and following *everything* He has commanded.

Day 5: With You Always

Read Matthew 28:18-20 several times.

With what promise does Jesus end His teaching?

Why do you think it was important to reaffirm His ongoing presence in regards to this teaching?

How might this promise affect your obedience to His command to *make disciples*?

Think on your obedience to this command. If our main command from Jesus is to make disciples, how much does your life reflect this as a main or central priority? Ask God to show you what may need to begin, to be realigned, or changed in order to orient your life around this central priority.