



THE GREAT COMMISSION

A LONG APPRENTICESHIP

Matthew 28:16–20

Week of May 28, 2023

Start at 9:45–9:55

Belong: *Use 5–10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- Or, **Have some fun together discussing what your “last words” might be and why.**
 - Do they express something of what really matters to you deep down, at a heart level?
- **How has God revealed Himself to you this week?**

9:55–10:05

Believe: *Use 5–10 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Have someone read **Matthew 26:16–20** aloud.

In **Matthew 28:16–20**, Matthew records these words as Jesus last before He ascended into heaven. These words are commonly referred to as the Great Commission. In fact, the Great Commission is currently part of FBC's mission statement. **“We exist to live out the Great Commandment so that we can fulfill the Great Commission.”** But for the church, this commission, has slowly become what Dallas Willard refers to as “The Great Omission.”

In your groups today, you will spend time discussing what the Commission is, and how we can reapply it to our own discipleship journey.

10:05–10:20

Build: *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

Look at **vs. 17**, how do the 11 respond to Jesus when they see him on the mountain?

- Who do you think they doubted? Was it doubt in Jesus or doubt in themselves?

Look at **vss. 18–20**, what are the four “ALL's” we see in this passage.

- What are the implications?

In **vs. 19**, what is the main imperative/ command? [Make disciples]

In **vs. 19**, Jesus tells the 11 to **“baptize...in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”**

- What does this imply and how does it fit with the beginning of **vs. 20**, **“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”**

Be honest now, when you hear these words of Jesus that we call “The Great Commission,” what stirs within you?

- Do you feel excitement? Dread? Guilt? Possibilities? **Explain.**

10:20-10:35/40

Become:

Use about 15 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?

Think back over your work-life. What were the steps you took to learn how to do your job?

- How many years did you spend in education? How many advanced degrees did you receive? [*post-secondary, graduate, phd?*]
- How much additional training did your employer require/ provide in order to maintain your job?
- Why do you think your employer required you to have these "minimal requirements" or additional training?

Taking the answers from above, what would happen if we treated our walk with Christ the same way?

- What would happen if we treated our jobs, the same way we currently prepare for our walk with Christ?

Have someone read **Luke 9:1-6** aloud. In this text, the disciples haven't been "the disciples" for long. [**Luke 6**]

- What sticks out to you about the way Jesus trained His disciples? What does **Luke 9:6** tell you about the disciples?
- How many of you would have anxiety if this was the way the church was disciplined?

Discuss this quote by **Eugene Peterson**: *"Disciple says we are people who spend our lives apprenticed to our Master, Jesus Christ...A disciple is a learner, but not in the academic setting of a school room, rather at the work site of a craftsman. We do not acquire information about God but skills in faith."*

10:35/ 10:40 - Class ends at 10:45

Begin:

Use the last 5-10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

What things are you already doing that you could make more purposeful for making disciples? Who has God already put in your life that you could disciple, or mentor? Take some time to pray for one another and ask God for opportunities to help someone grow as a disciple of Christ.

Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: Matthew 28: Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: Matthew 28: Check out the QR code to learn more.

