



# UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

*Through the Bible*

*Oct 27- Nov 2*

*Matthew 28:16-20*

## Things to Know

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## Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder: Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

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## Sermon Recap

- **Jesus' Authority Gives Us Confidence**

The Great Commission begins with Jesus' declaration that *"all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."* We don't go in our own power—we go under the authority of the risen King who reigns over every nation, every heart, and every circumstance.

- **Our Mission Is to Make Disciples, Not Just Converts**

Jesus didn't say, "Go and get decisions." He said, "Go and make disciples." The goal is not momentary belief but lifelong obedience. Discipleship means walking with people as they learn to follow Jesus, obey His commands, and grow in spiritual maturity.

- **Jesus' Presence Is Our Assurance**

The command to go is followed by a promise: *"I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Christ's abiding presence through His Spirit gives us courage in the face of fear, perseverance in the midst of opposition, and hope that His mission cannot fail.

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## Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the word "*authority*," what comes to mind—and how does understanding Christ's total authority change your view of mission?
  2. Why do you think Jesus started the Great Commission with worship (v.17)? What does that teach us about where mission begins?
  3. What are some practical ways you can "make disciples" in your everyday life—at work, school, or home?
  4. Why do you think Jesus includes both *baptizing* and *teaching* in His command? How do these show the full picture of discipleship?
  5. How does the promise of Jesus' presence encourage you when you feel unqualified, fearful, or discouraged about sharing your faith?
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## Read

**Read Matthew 28:16-20 and make observations about the text.**

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
  - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
  - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
  - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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# Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20

## The Great Commission

**16** Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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Matthew 28:16-20

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## Living on Mission In Community

The Great Commission isn't a calling for a few—it's the calling of the church. Every follower of Jesus is sent out with authority, equipped by His Spirit, and surrounded by His presence. We are not spectators but participants in God's redemptive plan for the world. The same Jesus who conquered the grave now sends us to make disciples in our neighborhoods, schools, and nations. The mission may seem overwhelming, but the power of Christ and the presence of His Spirit make it possible.

**So the question is—who is God sending you to reach, disciple, or walk alongside this week?**

*How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?*

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# Optional Breakout Questions

*Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:*

1. How did you feed yourself?
  - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
2. How did you feed others?
  - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
3. How did you feed your flesh?
  - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*

# ***Leader Resources - Oct 27-Nov 2***

## **Small Group Curriculum: Matthew 28:16-20**

### **Session Title: “Go and Make Disciples” – The Great Commission**

#### **Session Overview**

Matthew 28:16–20 records Jesus’ final command to His disciples—the Great Commission. It’s not just a task for the spiritually elite but the defining mission of every believer. This session helps groups understand that discipleship is the overflow of worship, grounded in Jesus’ authority, and empowered by His presence.

#### **1. Opening**

##### **Leader Prompt:**

Welcome your group and ask everyone to share briefly:

“When you think about the word ‘mission,’ what comes to mind?”

Then transition:

“The truth is, every Christian is on mission. Jesus didn’t call us to comfort but to commission.”

##### **Prayer:**

Ask the Spirit to renew your group’s desire to follow Jesus wherever He leads.

Then break into groups of 2–3 and ask:

“Is there any way we can pray for our personal walks with God this week?”

#### **2. Scripture Reading**

Read **Matthew 28:16–20** aloud together.

**16** Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

**17** And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

**18** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

**19** 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,

**20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### **3. Teaching Points**

#### **A. Worship Fuels the Mission (v. 17)**

The Great Commission begins with worship. Before Jesus gives the command to “go,” Matthew notes, “*They worshiped him.*”

True mission begins in awe of Jesus. Our evangelism grows cold when our worship grows weak.

“Mission is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn’t.” – **John Piper**, *Let the Nations Be Glad*

Discipleship flows from delight. When we treasure Christ, we naturally want others to know Him.

#### **B. The Authority of Jesus Empowers the Mission (v. 18)**

Jesus declares, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*”

He is the risen King. His authority grounds our obedience and gives us confidence in a hostile world.

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead now sends us into the world.

“The authority of Christ is the warrant for the church’s mission and the assurance of its success.” – **F. F. Bruce**

We don’t go in our own strength; we go in the name of the One who reigns.

#### **C. The Command of Jesus Defines the Mission (vv. 19–20a)**

The central command is “*make disciples.*”

The participles—*go, baptize, teach*—describe how we do it. Discipleship is not a program but a lifestyle of multiplication.

To *make disciples* means to intentionally help others know, follow, and obey Jesus.

To *baptize* means to publicly identify with Christ and His community.

To *teach* means to train obedience, not just transfer knowledge.

“The church exists to make disciples who make disciples, until every nation has heard the name of Jesus.” – **David Platt**

#### **D. The Presence of Jesus Sustains the Mission (v. 20b)**

Jesus ends with a promise: *“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

He doesn’t just send us—He goes with us.

Every act of obedience, every gospel conversation, every mission trip is carried by His Spirit.

“The presence of Christ is the secret of our perseverance.” – **Charles Spurgeon**

When we feel inadequate or afraid, we remember: Christ is with us and His mission cannot fail.

#### **4. Discussion Questions**

1. What emotions do you think the disciples felt on that mountain? How does this mirror your own experience of worship and doubt? (v. 17)
2. How does knowing Jesus has *all authority* change the way you approach evangelism and discipleship? (v. 18)
3. What does “make disciples” look like in your daily life—home, work, gym, neighborhood? (vv. 19–20)
4. Why do you think Jesus connects disciple-making with baptism and teaching?
5. How can we remind one another that Jesus’ presence is with us “always”?

#### **5. Application Points**

- **Worship deeply:** Before you can go, you must bow. Spend time daily worshipping Jesus through prayer and Scripture.
- **Live sent:** View your workplace, classroom, and neighborhood as your mission field.
- **Invest intentionally:** Identify one person you can disciple this month. Invite them to read Scripture or pray together.
- **Trust His authority and presence:** You are never alone; Jesus’ Spirit goes before you and within you.

#### **Challenge Question:**

Who is one person God is calling you to intentionally disciple in this season?

#### **6. Closing Reflection and Prayer**

##### **Leader Reflection:**

The Great Commission is not just a closing command—it’s a continuing call. Jesus has authority, gives the assignment, and promises His abiding presence.

### Group Prayer:

Pray for boldness, opportunities to share Christ, and the courage to obey. End by praying Matthew 28:19–20 together aloud.

## 7. Memory Verse

“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.”

— **Matthew 28:19**

## 8. Leader's Notes

- Emphasize that *every believer* is a missionary. The Great Commission is not optional.
- Encourage vulnerability: many feel inadequate to share their faith—remind them that Jesus' authority and presence are enough.
- Consider referencing Acts 1:8 and 2 Corinthians 5:17–21 for reinforcement.
- Possible worship song to close: **“Build Your Kingdom Here”** (Rend Collective) or **“Send Me”** (Matt Redman).

