

To Our Neighbors and to the Nations - Matthew 28:18-20
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

We have spent the last fourteen weeks talking about the importance of and a recipe for discipleship. We began with a passage called the Great Commission, Jesus' parting words at the end of Matthew after His resurrection. In His charge Jesus told His followers that as a result of His resurrection, He now is the ultimate authority over all things. Because of this He is sending them on a mission, the task of making disciples of all nations. They will go with both His authority and His mission, a mission of making disciples. We also noted in our first sermon that the language of this text points us to a clear process. In Matthew 28:19-20, the only verb is to "make disciples" surrounded by 3 participles (verbal adjectives or nouns - in English they normally end with "ing"). What this means is the command "make disciples" is the what, and the participles "Go" or better translated "Going", "baptizing" and "teaching" are the how.

We have also been contending that these 12 men knew exactly what Jesus meant when He commanded them to "make disciples", because Jesus' investment in them was the model to follow. So we have been looking at the life and ministry of Jesus as well as the New Testament application of how He made disciples to develop a recipe for making disciples. Therefore we have shared 10 core ingredients we believe are necessary as we join this task. The point of all of this is that we hope to press in to our church a clear vision, we are a Great Commission, disciple-making church, and our goal is that every ministry and every activity we do will be an extension of our desire to make disciples. The implication for each of us is that the life of an authentic disciple of Jesus is the life we were created for, the path to the greatest purpose and joy.

But this Commission also pushes to some intentionality about the people we are to disciple. Jesus told them to make disciples of all the nations. This mission is to the nations, with the intended goal made clear in all Scripture of a redeemed people from all the nations, tribes, people groups, and languages. The first followers of Jesus sought to fulfill Jesus' command by going all over the world preaching the Gospel and planting churches. As a church we see participation in this global mission as a vital part of who we are, and we have strategic partners on mission all over the world seeking to make disciples of all the nations. But the other thing we need to see is that this mission led to the planting of churches, and these churches became embassies of Christ's Kingdom in a specific city or place. In other words, the local church was given the task to continue the disciple-making task in a specific location and context. They became an extension of His authority and mission in their place. So we are a Kingdom outpost in Eureka/Pacific commissioned with this task. Therefore we need to be intentional about making disciples with the people in our context. So we need to pause and take a look at some categories of people involved in our task. We see Jesus intentionally connecting to and loving people from various spectrums of spiritual interest and growth, and His ministry continues with the reaching and disciple making of spiritually diverse people.

To fill out our grid we need to think strategically about these people who are around us and intentionally seek to invest the Gospel and the ingredients in the lives of these groups in ways that are appropriate for their spiritual development.

1. Unengaged and uninterested - people in the community and world who have no interest in Jesus or his church right now.
2. Seekers - Those who do not know Jesus, but are on a spiritual journey. These are friends and neighbors showing interest when we share as well as people who visit our church.
3. Church folk - We must be intentional to disciples people who come to Genesis from other churches, and who have a background in the church. The danger here is assuming these people know the Gospel, and actually believe. Furthermore, these people often also need to be disciplined into the mission of the church as an expression of Jesus' Kingdom.

**The remaining categories follow stages of human development. But in our case we are thinking spiritually, and not in terms of actual human growth.*

4. Babies - New Believers, need someone to change their diapers and feed them. They don't really know anything in the "ingredients", and need it spoon fed.
5. Children - People who are learning to self-feed, do basic things for themselves. But they need lots of training and are still focused on themselves.
6. Teens - These people have come to a point where they can own their own most of their discipleship and growth. But they still oversleep and miss the bus sometimes.
7. Adults - Not only are they ready to do discipleship for themselves, but they can reproduce, have babies. They are disciples who are ready to make disciples.
8. Elders, Deacons & Leaders - People who are mature, grown up, and active in discipling others.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Job 1	Job 2	Job 3	Job 4	Job 5	Job 6	Job 7

Reading from this past week: Matthew 28:18-20

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Ephesians 4:11-16

Family Worship

Song - *The Goodness of God*

<https://youtu.be/w8jg-QGRLMo?si=e-7-mc2kCF12DW3b>

Gospel Project

Unit: The Church Grows

Story: We are part of one church

Big Picture Question: What is the church?

Answer: The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12

New City Catechism

Question 19: Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

Answer: Yes, God reconciles us to himself by a Redeemer.

Verse: Isaiah 53:10-11

Scripture

Matthew 28:18-20

- Which disciples should be involved in the Great Commission? What people should be reached as a result of the Great Commission?
- How can a church be intentional about making disciples both of their neighbors and to the nations?
- Take a look at the various "stages" of discipleship listed below and shared in the sermon. Share one or two things a church could do to be intentional about discipleship for people in each stage.

Prayer

*Pray that God would help us with the task of making disciples of all sorts of people and to all nations.

*Pray for the work on the building and for God's provision in our finances.