

# *The Great Commission*

## KEY VERSES

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 1:8

## KEY THEMES

God has a plan

God commands the Church to go

## TEACHING NOTES

### The two book ends of history

In the beginning, God...

In the end, God... (Zechariah 14)



**Why hasn't Jesus returned? (Matthew 24:14)**

We are living under the new covenant in the church age for a purpose

**The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)**

The urgency of the task

**The power for God's people (Acts 1:8)****Lesson Objective:**

*That we would understand the proper response, both as the Church and as individuals, to the Great Commission*

**PERSONAL STUDY****Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Take a few moments to be still and quiet. Ask God to reveal to you the truth of His Word and bring clarity to what you are going to study.

**God has a plan**

One of the overarching themes in God's Word is that He has a plan and He will bring it to completion in His timing. God is not just trying things, hoping they will work. He is building His Church by maturing those who know Him, and pursuing those who have yet to put their faith and trust in Him.

**God has a plan... to build His Church**

In His plan to build the Church, God uses every believer. He builds His Church through evangelism (growth in number) and discipleship (growth in maturity).



Read Ephesians 4:11-16

How have you seen this theme play out in the lessons taught on the life of Christ? (Use your notebook to review the material from our last course.)

How have you seen this theme play out in the lives of people in *Equipping the Church*?

How have you seen this theme play out in your own life?

We should take confidence in seeing God's plan unfold as the disciples are equipped to fulfill God's plan to build His Church. God's desire is for us to also become equipped and continue the work of fulfilling His plan to build His Church.



### **God has a plan... to save sinners**



Spend time reading and reflecting on the following passages: John 3:16; Romans 3:9-31, 5:1-2, 5:6-8, 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; and Titus 3:4-7.

As you reflect, here are some points to think about:

- Christ taking the punishment
- God showing undeserved kindness
- Freedom from the penalty of sin
- God's gift of salvation, by grace through faith
- New and eternal life

Use the space below to write down any thoughts, prayers, or questions you have about the passages.

### **Key verse**

Put to memory the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20. Place the provided card somewhere you can see it throughout the day.

### **Prayer time**

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for this time you've spent in His Word. Thank the Lord for His plan. Thank Him for how He saves sinners – for how He saved you. Thank Him for how He is growing the Church in both number and maturity. Ask God to show you where He wants you to join Him in growing the Church and to give you the courage and boldness to do so.

## Study 2

### Prepare your heart and mind

Before you start, pause and ask God to help you focus on what He wants to show you during this time with Him in His Word.



### Read Matthew 28:18-20

What do you think Jesus meant by “go?”

What do you think Jesus intended when He said “make disciples?”

What do you think Jesus meant by “all nations?” How would we, both as individuals and as the Church, participate in reaching “all nations?”



### God commands the Church to go

When Jesus said, “go,” it wasn’t a suggestion, it was a command. He commanded the disciples to go and He commands us today to do the same. As Christ followers, we know we are to go, the question then is where. “Go and make disciples of all the nations...” The world is a pretty big place full of people who need to hear the Good News about Jesus. God may lead you to go to your next-door neighbor, your mother, the new guy at the office, or halfway around the world to a group of people who know nothing about Jesus yet. The issue isn’t location — it’s you being faithful to Jesus’ command to share what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus.

Think about your own journey to Christ. Who in your life fulfilled the Great Commission by sharing the Good News of Jesus with you?

Have you shared the Good News of Jesus before? If so, how did it go? If not, why?

How is God calling you to “go and make disciples of all nations” today?

What are some actual steps you can take to respond to His command?

**Key verse**

Continue putting to memory Matthew 28:18-20. See if you can write it out from memory below.

**Prayer time**

Spend time in prayer thanking God for this time you’ve spent meditating on His Word. Thank Him for the Great Commission. Thank Him for how you now know Him because someone obeyed His command. Ask God to show you where He wants you to respond to His command to go and make disciples. Ask Him to give you the courage and boldness to do so.

## OPTIONAL STUDY

Did you know that according to the Joshua Project\*, there are 7,296 people groups on the planet that have not been reached with the Gospel? An unreached people group is a group of people isolated from the Gospel because of language and cultural barriers. These unreached people groups account for 2.9 billion people or 41% of the earth's population!

In Matthew 24:14 Jesus said, *"And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come."* God's heart in our generation is to send out workers to preach the Good News of His Kingdom to all nations.



Read Matthew 28:18-20

Do you believe that this commandment is to you personally as a disciple of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?



Read Luke 10:1-2

Do you see the world's unreached people groups as the Lord's harvest and ripe souls waiting to hear the Gospel message?



Read Romans 10:14-15

How will the nations in our generation hear the Gospel if we as believers are unwilling to leave our lives of ease and comfort to go and take the message? Have you considered how God wants to use you to play a role in getting the Gospel to the unreached? What might be a good next step for you?

It is God's plan to continue reaching the world with the message of faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. It is also God's plan to use His people to get the job done. The question for you is not what is God's purpose for your life, but where and how does He want you to share the Good News. The Lord will not call all of us to be foreign missionaries, but He does call all of us to be witnesses for His Son Jesus to the world around us. How will they hear if we do not share the message?

\* For more information on the needs of the unreached world, visit [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)