

Membership Covenant

The 5 G's
Groups
Giving
Gifts
Grace
Growth

A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Matthew 28:16-20

Message for the Week: A Challenging Commission

Sunday, May 5

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What was the best graduation party you ever attended? What made it so great?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Matthew 28:16-20](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What do you think some of the disciples' doubts (wonderings...what does this mean) were? Have you ever worshipped Jesus even though you may have had some doubts/wonderings about what being one of his disciples might mean for you?

What is Jesus commanding his disciples to do in these verses? What is Jesus commanding you/us to do in these verses? What are the implications of this commissioning?

In these verses, Jesus, the one who has all authority, promises to be with us always. What does it mean that Jesus is always with us? Share a time that you knew Jesus was with you.

If all authority in heaven and earth resides in/with Jesus, why do we so often settle for and/or give our hearts and lives to lesser authorities?

The setting for our Bible text this week is on top of a mountain. What other mountains did Jesus do ministry upon? What is the significance of a mountain?

Try It:

Identify other "authority" structures that control your life. Be honest and identify how much control you have allowed them to have. Having identified them, what changes do you need to make to allow Jesus to have all authority?

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, we ask in Jesus' name that you will remind me that Jesus has ALL the authority in heaven and earth. Under his authority, send me out into the world to make disciples of all nations, of all peoples, of all nationalities and people groups. Help me, by your Spirit, to welcome all people as you understand them, in need of your grace. AMEN

Missional/Spiritual Practice: Growth

I commit to deepen my faith in Jesus Christ through regular Scripture reading and prayer.

I commit to having and pursuing a personal rule of life (a plan for intentionally growing my relationship with Jesus Christ) and living it out in my community, my church, and His Kingdom.

Matthew 28:16-20

New International Version

28 ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Message

28 ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshipped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about *worship*, about risking themselves totally.

¹⁸⁻²⁰ Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."