

“...Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- MATTHEW 28:19-20 NLT

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

THE GREAT COMMISSION = JESUS' LAST ORDER

- **MAKE** disciples of all nations.
- **BAPTIZE** them in the Father, Son, and Spirit.
- **TEACH** them to obey everything Jesus taught.

WEEK 8

GO

The Great Commission was not meant to be a suggestion or an option. It is our calling.

A father is getting ready to leave for work. He simply tells his three children, “Before I return home, I would like you to clean your rooms.” The children respond with a “Yes, Sir!”, as he walks out of the front door. After he leaves, the children look at each other with excitement and readiness. The youngest child says, “Let’s get to it.” Her older brother responds with, “Hold on, we can’t just jump right in. We need to be sure we do it right.” The oldest child says, “Yes! I agree. Let’s put our heads together first.” Time goes by, and the children have been hard at work. Soon, and to their surprise, their father walks through the front door. He says, “Kids! I’m home!”. After hugs and kisses, he follows up with a question: *the question*, “So, did you clean your room like I asked?” The oldest child, quick to respond with beaming eyes, says, “Daddy! We started the day with talking about what you said.” “Good!”, says the father. The middle child chimes in with, “Yeah! And we also prayed about how to best clean our room!” “That’s wonderful!”, replied the father. The youngest child bashfully said, “We actually spent a lot of time studying your exact words, learning what they meant in the original language you said them in, and figuring out how to best apply them.” The father looked at his children with love and said, “All that is

incredible, but you still haven't answered my question: Did you clean your rooms like I asked." "No, Daddy...", they replied in unison.

How does this story make you feel?

It may seem silly reading this story, but this is exactly what we all struggle with every day: simply obeying the Father's commands.

Jesus has clearly laid out in Matthew's gospel what we are to be doing in His absence.

*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **20** Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."*

[Matthew 28:19-20a NLT]

Jesus said, "Go." The Great Commission was not meant to be a suggestion. It is not an option. It is a command. We cannot be passive or merely have good intentions to carry it out. There is a job to do and we have been called to do it; not passively, nor buried in scholarly study but rather with intentional actions.

How often do you think of these verses?

**Do these verses impact the way you interact with others?
In what ways do they challenge you?**

Fortunately, Jesus bookends this command with encouraging and hope-filled promises:

“And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” [Matthew 28:20b NLT]

How does this verse bring encouragement and hope to you?

“Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.’”
[Matthew 28:18 NLT]

What incredible insight from Jesus here! He has all authority: **ALL!** And as Pastor John says, *“All means ALL!”*. This is not just a city limits type of jurisdiction, or a county line cut-off, or even a state-wide or nation-wide authority. This is far more reaching than any of that. This is a universal, eternal, cosmic, sin-crushing, death-stomping, “It is finished!” type of authority.

Furthermore, He ends with saying that, He, the one with all authority, is going to be with you all the time. That is so powerful!

Knowing this, how do this verse bring you comfort, boldness, security, etc.?

Here is the bottom line — *We have a job to do!* As we finish out this small group study of the essentials of the Christian faith, there are some next steps we must consider.

Take some time to discuss how to implement these in your group and in your life:

1. CONTINUE MEETING.

Do not just stop meeting with this small group because the curriculum is done. This is so much more than a curriculum or a study. This is about creating lasting and deep relationships with others.

"...Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

[Hebrews 10:25 NLT]

2. CONSIDER LEADING.

Is God calling you to take the next step in small groups? God is continually raising up people to do the work of the ministry, if we would only pray, listen, and obey.

*"[Jesus] said to his disciples, 'The harvest is great, but the workers are few. **38** So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.'" [Matthew 9:37-38 NLT]*

This is exactly what we at DFC are doing: praying for workers to labor with us in reaching the people God has for us. Pray about your role in the next season of small groups.

3. CONSCIOUSLY LIVING.

Being mindful of what Jesus has commanded us is so important. It should impact your way of life, your relationships, your interactions, and your purpose. This is the high calling we have before us. This brings us full circle back to where we started — Paul’s analogy of a race:

“I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.” [Philippians 3:14 NLT]

There is it! — No special formula or trick. This is our daily calling. Let’s go and run the race set before us. This is what is essential. Our hope is that the insight and knowledge you have gained throughout this small group will launch you into a life centered around Jesus and focused on His call for you.