



**Connect Group Discussion Guide**  
**Sunday Message - 8/16/20 | Tyler Myers | Matthew 28:16-20**

*A NEW Commission – Written On Hearts!*

**Key Scriptures:**

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

*So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.*

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

- Genesis 1:26–31

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.  
With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!  
I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

- Psalm 119:9–11

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

- Matthew 28:16–20

**Message Notes:**

- From the Beginning (Genesis 1):
  - God Designed Us -- An Image Etched (v. 26-27)
  - God Blessed Us – A Trusted Relationship Extended (v. 28)
  - God Empowered Us – A Mission Given (v. 28)

- God Resourced Us – Everything Created (v. 29-30)
- God Saw Us – Behold – God liked what he saw – VERY GOOD! (v. 31)
- Very soon, our story took a turn for the worse:
  - We began to see ourselves as the designer rather than the designed.
  - We began to see ourselves as the blesser rather than the blessed.
  - We began to hijack the mission rather than fulfill it.
  - We began to hoard & abuse resources rather than steward them.
  - We began to hide rather than seek.

### Message Highlights:

- The Great Commission is intended to guide us to make disciples AS WE ARE GOING—in our workplaces, schools, relationships, homes, or social circles.
- God has empowered and resourced us for the mission.
- “Few things in life are as powerful as focus.” - Carey Nieuwhof
- “What we dwell on in our head eventually determines the condition of our heart.” - Aaron Brockett
- The words etched on our heart is what will become our whole-hearted pursuit.
- Christ has written a new commission written on our hearts.

### Conversation Starter:

- God, our Creator, has blessed us in so many ways! What are the first 3 blessings that come to your mind for which you would like to offer thanks to Him?

### Discuss the Message:

1. Would you say that our culture leans more in the direction of hoarding and abusing resources or being excellent stewards of them? With respect to this question, carefully consider and discuss Proverbs 3:27: “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.”
2. Give an example of a time in which you were prepared to respond to a situation in a particular way, but then you recalled God’s Word and responded differently?
3. How has God’s Word sustained you in these uncertain and difficult times?
4. In the past week, what opportunities did you have to make disciples “as you were going?”
5. Did you spend more time hiding from God or seeking Him?
6. What people, circumstances, or things are most likely to hijack your life on mission rather than allowing you to fulfill it? How can these obstacles be intentionally overcome so that you can live the purposeful and abundant life He intended?

### Pray:

- Pray for one another.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for the many blessings that You lavish on us every day. Thank You for creating us with purpose and love. Thank You for sending Your Son to teach us what it means to live life on mission for You. Thank You for providing us with all that we need in order to live out what You intend for us to accomplish. Forgive us for becoming distracted, for hiding when we should be seeking, for holding too tightly to the blessings You’ve given us, and for failing to give You the honor You’re due. Help us to re-focus powerfully on Your mission in our lives and to overcome the obstacles that stand in the way of doing so. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in discerning and responding to the opportunities we’re given as we go about our lives this week. Until we meet again, we ask for Your continuing provision. Please teach us how to make a difference in our world—which has become so broken. Help us to turn back to You. Please heal our land of its severed relationships and contagious fear and illness. May we look back on this time and see Your mighty Hand at work—advancing Your kingdom. Thank You for inviting us into that story. Amen.*

