



Connect Group Discussion Guide

Sunday Message - 8/23/20 | Steve Hill | Matthew 28:18-20

A NEW Commission – Written On Hearts!

Key Scriptures:

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

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.
- John 17:4

I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.
- John 17:9–11

I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
- John 17:20–21

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- John 15:4–5

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”
- Luke 9:23–25

Message Highlights:

- The “commission” is a military term: King Jesus is giving his foot-soldiers their marching orders in order to gain true victory.
- To be a disciple involves being in a continual relationship with Jesus. It also involves daily repentance and allegiance to a new Master. This is true life change! It is meant to be shared with others in community.
- In growing as a disciple, more is “caught” than “taught.”

- When we are too busy, we can easily become distracted from our mission. Busyness can become an idol. We may look to it as a gauge of our significance. We must ask ourselves: Who is Lord of our time?
- “Repentance is a long-term commitment to shift allegiance to a new master.” - Mark Moore
- Discipleship is all about the pursuit of relationship!

Conversation Starter:

- In Steve’s sermon, he mentioned how powerful last words can be. Why do you think someone’s last words, or the last conversation we are able to have with them, carry so much weight?

Discuss the Message:

1. When you hear the word “disciple,” what comes to mind? Did the way Steve explained what it means to be a disciple change the way you see it? If yes, how so?
2. According to Barna Research, only 49% of churchgoers are familiar with the Great Commission. What do you think about these statistics? What factors do you suppose have contributed to these outcomes?
3. Read the following quote from Dr. Bill Bright:

Oh, what an hour for Christians to become involved in the greatest spiritual harvest since Pentecost! This dark and desperate hour in the affairs of mankind is an hour of destiny, a time of unprecedented opportunity for Christians. This is the hour for which we were born – to set in motion a mighty, sweeping spiritual revolution that will turn the tide and reveal to mankind that the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ offers the basic solutions to every problem facing mankind.

Do you believe this to be true today? Why or why not? Do you believe that “this is the hour for which we were born? How might that be so, or why don’t you believe it to be true?

4. We know that Jesus seeks a continual, growing relationship with us. Would you be willing to share a description of your relationship with Jesus? How have you experienced growth in your relationship with him over the years? What keeps your relationship solid—even in the most challenging of times?
5. In light of the fact that The Great Commission is likened to military orders, consider carefully 2 Timothy 2:4, “No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.” What thoughts does this bring to mind? What “civilian pursuits” might this verse represent?
6. Steve quoted the following: “Hurry (aka – busyness) is not of the devil; hurry is the devil” (-Carl Jung). The devil doesn’t have to work very hard when we’ve already fully distracted ourselves. For many of us, busyness has actually become an idol—it makes us feel ‘significant.’”

Based on your own experience, do you feel that there are pressures to live a life of busyness in order to maintain a sense of significance? In terms of living out The Great Commission, what might be the benefits of simplifying your lifestyle? What steps could you take (or have you taken) in order to avoid giving the devil a foothold in this area of your life?

Pray:

- *Heavenly Father, Thank You for the gift of purpose in our lives. Thank You for the body of believers that You have created. Help us to grow so close to You that our desires mirror Yours. Help us to have a heart for the nations—so that not one of Your children would remain lost. Help us to have eyes that see where we fall short of living out Your purposes for our lives, and forgive us for losing focus. Please guide us in following Your marching orders and keep us from being too involved in “civilian affairs.” We want to please You—the One who has enlisted us in the beautiful mission of reconciliation. Amen.*

