

Foundations of Faith

Lesson Eight: The Great Commission

“And _____ came and said to them, ‘All _____ in heaven and on earth has been given to me. _____ therefore and _____ of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, _____ them to _____ all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am _____ to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

All Authority

These verses in Matthew include some of the last instructions that Jesus gave his disciples before he ascended into heaven. We call this the Great Commission. God has commissioned us with all His authority to share His message of reconciliation to the world.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. Describe in your own words what authority God has given us. _____

Go!

Jesus is saying that *SINCE* he has all authority, He wants us to do something quite specific with it! His first words are to *GO*; “going” either to whomever we come across in every day life OR to wherever God sends us globally. God has used people going normally (Philip, Acts 8:26-40) or going out of their way (Paul, Acts 13-28) to be his mouthpiece to this world because they were willing.

Where do you feel God is calling you to share His good news? How willing do you feel to answer this call?

Make disciples!

A disciple of Jesus is an obedient and reproducing follower of Jesus. Making a disciple means helping someone else receive Christ and obey all He has commanded. God desires that each of us be bold and take initiative to share the gospel with those that don't know Christ.

Read Luke 8:4-8, 11-15. What does this teach us about who responds to the gospel? About sharing the gospel? _____

Read 2 Timothy 2:2. What does this teach us about making disciples? _____

(Personal testimony from your leader on the impact of life on life evangelism and discipleship)

All Nations!

Read 2 Peter 3:9. Who does God desire to save? _____

Read Romans 10:13-17. Why is it important to share the gospel with those who have never heard? _____

Read Acts 1:8. Where did Jesus call the disciples to go? What significance is there for these places He lists? _____

Read Matthew 24:14. What does Jesus promise in this verse? _____

The very end of the age!

When this Great Commission has been completed, then Jesus has promised to return (Mark 13:10), exposing and destroying all sin and evil (2 Peter 3:10, Revelation 22:12). Then we will be with him forever in perfect paradise – Heaven!

What do the following verses teach us about heaven?

Revelation 7:9-10 _____

Revelation 21:3-5 _____

There are three very important things for Christians to do; one, obey all that God has commanded, two, share the gospel of Jesus and three, teach others to obey all of His ways. The Great Commission has a bit of humor built in – Jesus teaches that we need to obey everything He has commanded in the middle of a new command. So, we need to teach others to obey all that he commands, including the command to teach others all that He commands. Though a little funny, God desires that all people be saved and we have the awesome privilege to join Him in spreading the GOOD NEWS!

Check which of the following things you can do to be a part of fulfilling the Great Commission.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ask God for boldness to speak for Him | <input type="checkbox"/> Train others to obey Jesus and to make disciples also |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for people that don't know Jesus | <input type="checkbox"/> Bring a friend to church/a discipleship ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead people to believe in Jesus | <input type="checkbox"/> Give money to support a missionary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage others to be baptized | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to another country to share with those that have not heard |

What are a few other things you would add to this list to take part in fulfilling it? _____

Your Response This Week:

- Pray and ask God for boldness.
- Plan a time to go out with the one taking you through this lesson to share the gospel together.
- Make a list of people you know that do not know Jesus. Of those, who are "red apples", ready to hear the Gospel? Make a plan to share the good news with them. For accountability, share the plan with the one taking you through this lesson.
- Continue using the SOS method of Bible study (see Lesson 2) as you read through the gospels and the rest of the Bible.
- Continue meeting regularly with someone for accountability and further training in following Jesus.