



**CONNECT**  
SERIES

CONNECT TO THE MISSION

CLASS V

# ALL AUTHORITY

MATTHEW 28:18-20



## JESUS' LAST WORDS BEFORE RETURNING TO HIS FATHER

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is the significance of these being the last words Jesus spoke before he ascended into heaven?



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Think of someone in your life who exhibits authority. What characteristics does this person have that grants them authority over your life?



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What was it about Jesus that left the crowds amazed?



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If you were to submit your life to Jesus as the ultimate authority, what aspects of your life would immediately be affected?



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*“We do not segment our lives, giving some time to God, some to our business or schooling, while keeping parts to ourselves. The idea is to live all of our lives in the presence of God, under the authority of God, and for the honor and glory of God. That is what the Christian life is all about.”*

R.C. Sproul

## TAKE AWAY

**Jesus is the Creator and Redeemer** of humanity. He is the Ruler of God’s Kingdom as all authority is given to Him.

The fact that Jesus has all authority has two implications on us: **He expects us to do what he asks** and that **He fully supports us when we do**.

**Jesus spoke** his last words on Earth in Matthew 28:18-20 which **gives instructions and comfort to all disciples**—including us.

BE A DISCIPLE • MAKE A DISCIPLE

# BEING A CHRISTIAN IS BEING A DISCIPLE

## KEY SCRIPTURES

1

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

*Romans 10:9*

2

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

*John 8:31-32*

3

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

*Matthew 16:24-25*





# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Do you agree that a Christian is also a disciple? Why or why not?



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What practices of discipleship do you struggle with? Prayer? Quiet time? Small group? Corporate worship? Making disciples? Serving others? Loving your enemies?



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## DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

A Disciple **LOVES**  
*John 13:34-35*

A Disciple **SERVES**  
*Matthew 23:11*

A Disciple is **GENEROUS**  
*Luke 6:30*

A Disciple has **PURPOSE**  
*Ephesians 2:10*


A Disciple is an **AMBASSADOR**  
*2 Corinthians 5:20*

A Disciple has **HELP FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
*John 14:16-17*

A Disciple makes **DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST**  
*2 Timothy 2:2*

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who is a good example of a disciple in your life? What characteristics and behaviors do they exhibit?

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Where do you see God taking you next in your life?

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# TAKE AWAY

Being a Christian means we are not just saved FROM death but saved FOR a God given purpose and action plan.

Being a Christian requires us to follow JESUS AS A DISCIPLE.

Jesus is asking us the same questions He asks Peter, "Do you love me? Feed my sheep." *John 21:17*  
If we believe/love Jesus, then WE HAVE TO DO WHAT HE SAYS.



# GO, MAKE DISCIPLES AND BAPTIZE

REVIEW THE GREAT COMMISSION ON PAGE 1 OF THIS PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE



But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

- 1 Peter 3:15

Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- John 13:34-35

Jesus said, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

- Matthew 5:16

Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- Acts 1:8

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Does learning that "go" is understood "as you go" change your understanding of the great commission? How?



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How can we view baptism as more than just an immersion with water? What ways can you be baptizing others into the Christian community?



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# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What prevents you from practicing sacrificial, radical love? How can you remove those obstacles?



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In what relationships can you become more intentional about sharing Jesus?



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# TAKE AWAY

WE ARE TO “GO” MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS through our daily life in ordinary places, like home, and work, etc... In this way, “GO” means “as you go”.

Disciples are made through a **RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

**BAPTIZING IS THE FIRST STEP** in making disciples. It is done by immersing or involving oneself deeply into the life of Jesus Christ.



“MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS IS THE OVERFLOW OF THE DELIGHT IN BEING DISCIPLES OF JESUS.”

*David Platt, Follow Me: A Call to Die. A Call to Live.*



# TEACH THEM TO OBEY ALL I COMMAND

REVIEW THE GREAT COMMISSION  
ON PAGE 1 OF THIS  
PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE

“THERE IS NO HIGHER  
CALLING OR GREATER  
PRIVILEGE KNOWN  
TO MAN THAN BEING  
INVOLVED IN  
HELPING FULFILL THE  
GREAT COMMISSION”

— BILL BRIGHT

**“You have  
one business  
on earth –  
to save souls.”**

John Wesley  
*Founder of Methodism*



For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

– Romans 5:19

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

– John 14:23

Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

– John 14:12

Jesus said, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.”

– John 15:16

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

– James 1:22

Jesus said, “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

– Matthew 7:24 - 25

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Can you name 2 or 3 people in your life that may benefit from your investing in them or discipling them over the next 3 years? Describe what impact you think that could have on their lives. On your life?



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What does it look like to be motivated by love to obey?



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We discussed how athletes, musicians and tradespeople have a “training mindset” to become like their teacher. Why is it important to have a training mindset with our life and those we invest in?



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What are your feelings/thoughts about joining a discipleship group as your next step?



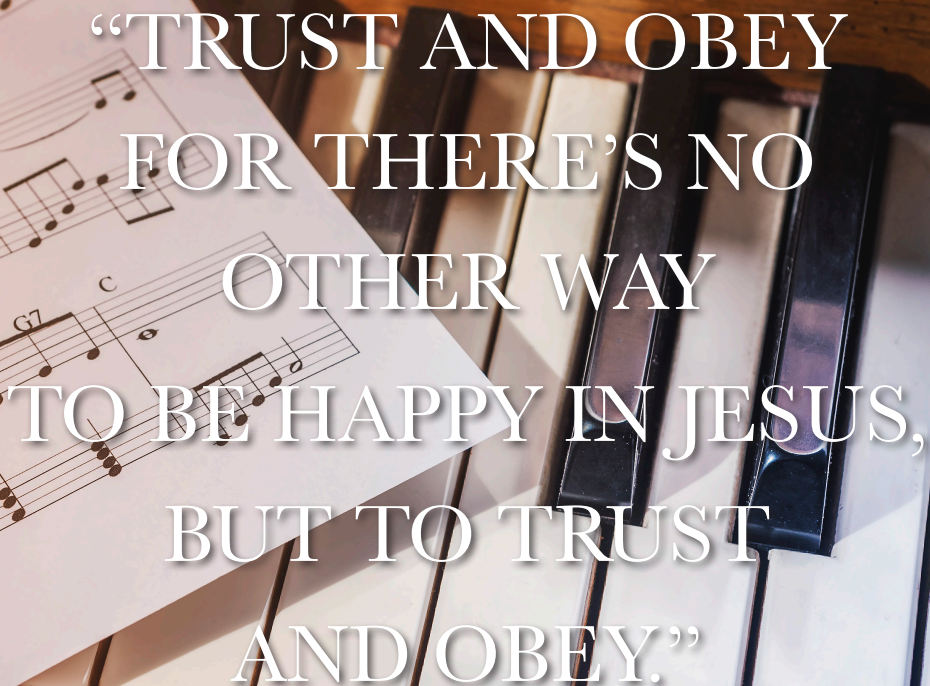
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FEAR GOD AND  
OBEY HIS COMMANDS,  
FOR THIS IS  
EVERYONE'S DUTY.

Ecclesiastes 12:13, NLT

THE HYMN WRITER PUT IT ANOTHER WAY:



“TRUST AND OBEY  
FOR THERE'S NO  
OTHER WAY  
TO BE HAPPY IN JESUS,  
BUT TO TRUST  
AND OBEY.”

TAKE AWAY

1. There are people in your life that need YOU to obey Jesus and be a guide for them.
2. Obedience to Jesus' commands must be driven by Love, NOT by force, guilt, or compliance.
3. Becoming a teacher for Jesus is done over time with steady and intentional investment; and everyone can do it through the help of the Holy Spirit.
4. Being part of a small disciple group - discussing Jesus' commands and learning how to obey them and eventually teach them creates a “Greenhouse Effect”—which is essential to help transform you into a confident and joyful disciple maker.

“IF  
THE GREAT  
COMMISSION  
IS TRUE,  
OUR PLANS  
ARE NOT  
TOO BIG;  
THEY ARE  
TOO SMALL.”

- PAT MORLEY

# I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS

REVIEW THE GREAT COMMISSION  
ON PAGE 1 OF THIS  
PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE



“If a commission by an earthly king  
is considered an honor, how can a  
commission by a Heavenly King be  
considered a sacrifice?”

– *David Livingstone*



## DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I AM WITH YOU

– *Genesis 26:24*

...and they shall call His  
name Immanuel, which is  
translated, “God with us.”

– *Matthew 1:23*

And we know that in all  
things God works for the  
good of those who love  
Him, who have been called  
according to His purpose.

– *Romans 8:28*

For He said, “I will never  
leave you or forsake you.”

– *Hebrews 13:5*

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How does it make you feel that the Holy Spirit is with you?



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Describe when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit during a difficult time in your life.



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What practice(s) could you add to help you experience and remember the Holy Spirit is with you?



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Can you share a time when you did God's work with your own power/skills, and it did not go well? Or a time when you leaned on the Holy Spirit, and you were amazed?



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How is the Holy Spirit key to making disciples?



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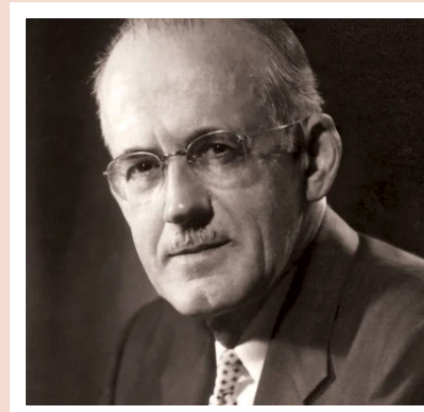


# TAKE AWAY

JESUS HAS PROMISED TO BE  
**WITH US FOREVER** THROUGH THE  
POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

**WE CAN OVERCOME FEARS** AS  
AN OBSTACLE TO ANYTHING  
(INCLUDING MAKING DISCIPLES)  
WHEN WE **LEAN ON THE  
PRESENCE OF CHRIST.**

WE CAN **EXPERIENCE THE  
PRESENCE AND POWER** OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT BY DOING THINGS  
THAT **DRAW US NEAR HIM** LIKE  
PERSONAL WORSHIP AND  
SMALL GROUPS.



“THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE  
IS NOT A SPECIAL, DELUXE  
EDITION OF CHRISTIANITY. IT  
IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE  
TOTAL PLAN OF GOD FOR  
HIS PEOPLE.”

- A. W. TOZER

# ANSWERING THE 4 CALLS OF CHRIST

JESUS SAID, "COME, FOLLOW ME AND I WILL  
MAKE YOU FISHERS OF PEOPLE."

- MATTHEW 4:19



“Discipleship is the process  
of becoming who Jesus  
would be if he were you.”

- Dallas Willard

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Where do you see yourself in the 4 calls—Salvation, Lordship, Discipleship, Purpose? How can you move to the next step?



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Why do you believe that many Christians today are intimidated by the purposeful calling of being a disciple maker?



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# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What inhibits you from allowing God to use you to help others grow in their faith life?



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What obstacles could prevent you from joining a discipleship group and how might you overcome these obstacles?



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“Fortunately, God made all varieties of people with a wide variety of interests and abilities. He has called people of every race and color who have been hurt by life in every manner imaginable. Even the scars of past abuse and injury can be the means of bringing healing to another. What wonderful opportunities to make disciples!”  
*- Charles R. Swindoll*





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# GET CONNECTED



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