
The Extent

*“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 28:18-20*

Go Make Disciples Check-in: How did others respond to the following question: How would you define what it means to be a Christian? How does that compare with what Jesus says about following Him?

Group Discussion: What are some ways our church “makes disciples of all nations?”

This week, we are going to be looking closely at the phrase “of all nations” in the Great Commission. Jesus did not leave his command “Go” up to interpretation as to what extent he intended. The disciples were not able to simply say, “I will go make disciples in my hometown or go to the Jews. Jesus’ command to the disciples was for them to make disciples wherever they went and to whomever they came across. They were to be his witnesses in **“Jerusalem, AND in all Judea and Samaria, AND to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8b)**. This meant that their mission was to extend beyond their homes, beyond their culture, beyond their region, and beyond their language. It was a command to go the various people groups that exist in the world and ensure they hear the good news of the gospel.

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| <p>1. What examples do we see in the Bible of God’s people making disciples of those who were of different cultures, regions, and languages?</p> |
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In the same way, we are called to make disciples of Christ wherever we go and to whomever we come across. Whether we are at school, work, an event, home, or halfway across the world, Christ is commanding us to make disciples of all nations. Below are four mission environments for us to consider as we prayerfully discern to whom Christ is calling us to “Go!”

Home

The home must be our first priority when it comes to making disciples, as Paul alludes to in the Elder qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:4-5. Husbands are called to make disciples of their wives (Eph. 5:25-28), wives are called to reach their unbelieving husbands (1 Cor. 7:13-16), and parents are called to make disciples of their kids (Deut. 6:6-9).

Is there anyone in my home who is not a follower of Christ or does not know how to make disciples?

Yes _____ No

If so, am I already intentionally discipling this person(s)?

Yes No

Church Family

The second environment we should consider when seeking to make disciples is our church family. We are called to use our gifts to “build one another up,” “serve one another,” and “teach one another” (1 Thess. 5:11, Eph. 4:11-16, 1 Pet. 4:10, Col. 3:15-16).

Am I currently using my spiritual gifts to help make disciples in our Church Family?

Yes No

If not, what is one way I can begin serving to make disciples of an age group or a specific person here at First Baptist?

Neighborhood, Workplace, School, and Community

The early church made it a daily practice to go out into the community where the lost were in order to make disciples (Acts 2:46). Likewise, God has placed lost people in our backyards, break rooms, school cafeterias, soccer fields, and grocery stores, because He desires for us to help them know and follow Jesus.

Who are some lost people God has put in my life that I can begin praying for and intentionally reaching in my neighborhood, workplace, school, or community?

World

Christ has called each one of us to make disciples of all nations. While that does not necessarily mean that each one of us is called to serve as an overseas missionary, it does mean that we are called to help advance the gospel to different people groups in some way. That could include praying regularly for a missionary or giving financially to an overseas ministry. But it should also include us baptizing and teaching the nations ourselves. Therefore, we should also be discerning how Jesus is calling us to make disciples of a refugee here in Muscatine, prioritizing a global mission trip, or sponsoring a child to whom we write gospel-saturated letters.

Am I currently investing in the making of disciples around the world?

Yes No

If not, the step I believe God is calling me to take to make disciples globally is:

2. **Of these four environments, which have you seen God already work in you to make disciples? In which environment(s) do you need more intentionality, and what is one step you can take during this course to start making disciples there?**

As we seek to go make disciples of all nations across these four environments, a few points of emphasis are helpful. First, as was mentioned above, the Great Commission emphasis is that we would be seeking to make disciples wherever we go, meaning we should be making disciples across all four of these environments, as opposed to picking which one or two we prefer.

Secondly, while this emphasis may cause for a change in our priorities in schedule, in many ways we can successfully be making disciples of all nations simply by bringing a greater intentionality to what we do. More than likely you already interact with people in your home, church family, neighborhood, workplace, school, community, and even people of different cultures, languages, and home countries.

Therefore, the need for many of us is not to add a discipleship meeting to our schedules, but to start having gospel-saturated conversations at the dinner table, break room, cafeteria, car rides, soccer games, bed times, social gatherings, on social media, and interact in the church foyer. Or for us to shift from a “I am here to be served” to a “I am here to serve others” mentality as we gather with our church family.

Thirdly, as we covered a few weeks ago, we will most certainly encounter a few challenges as we make disciples of all nations. We will have to overcome differing priorities when it comes to setting aside time, cultural differences, language barriers, and financial challenges, not to mention our own weaknesses.

However, this is when we need to continue to remember the truths that bookend the Great Commission: Jesus has authority over all these circumstances and He is always with us. He has promised to be faithful to us as we go to all nations.

Group Discussion: What are some challenges you are personally anticipating as you make disciples of all nations? What promises has God given us in His Word to help you overcome those challenges?

Go Make Disciples

Take time this week to prayerfully identify specific people God is calling you to reach in each of the four environments listed above.

Praying This Week

- Thank God for his willingness to make disciples of us as Gentiles.
- Ask God to forgive us and renew us for limiting our disciple-making to people like us.
- Invite the Spirit to help us identify specific people we can be reaching of all nations.