

**God With Us**

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*“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*

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**Group Discussion:** As you now understand fully what the Great Commission is, what fears do you have about going and making disciples?

So to summarize to this point, Jesus has commanded us to keep making disciples by going, baptizing, and teaching until the world is reached. By now, some of us are probably overwhelmed at the task before us, as I assume the disciples probably were as well. Which is why Jesus ends this command with words of assurance, “I am with you always to the end of the age.”

Although Jesus commands each one of us to go and be able to make disciples who make disciples, he does not command us to go alone. Instead, He promises He will be with us from the moment we start making disciples till the end of our life here on Earth.

As we think about our fears and Jesus words of comfort, perhaps it is good for us to remember how God responded similarly to Moses when God called Him to go free His people. Below is a list of Moses’ five excuses, and God’s response to them.

Moses’ Excuse #1: Who am I?

God’s Response #1: I will be with you.

Moses’ Excuse #2: Who has sent me?

God’s Response #2: I AM WHO I AM (YAHWEH).

Moses’ Excuse #3: What if they won’t believe me or hear me?

God’s Response #3: A sign: Moses’ staff turned into a snake and then back into a staff.

Moses’ Excuse #4: I am not very good with words.

God’s Response #4: Who is it that has made man’s mouth...It is I the LORD.

Moses’ Excuse #5: Send someone else.

God’s Response #5: I will give you Aaron and I will put my words in His mouth.

Over and over Moses looked at himself in the mirror and saw himself as incapable of completing the task God gave Him. Yet, over and over God reminded Him that Moses was simply the messenger, and it was ok for the messenger to be weak, because God would be doing the hard work in His great power and presence. Jared Wilson writes:

“God was not trying to convince Moses that Moses was strong enough for the job. He was telling Moses that God himself was strong enough for the job...Don’t be afraid of

your weaknesses. It's the only thing God will work with! And the weaker you are, the stronger you will discover your Savior to be. You need not fear.”

**Group Discussion:** Let's take a moment and let God remind us how we benefit from Him being with us as we make disciples. Therefore, in your group, make a list of how Jesus being with us, through the Spirit, helps us as fulfill the Great Commission. If you can, tie in specific Scripture verses that affirm these blessings.

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The book of Acts is filled with examples of the disciples boldly making other disciples as they lived in the assurance that God was with them. Here are a few of those examples all coming from just the first 10 chapters:

- Peter's Sermon at Pentecost and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit – Acts 2
- People being healed and miracles happening – Acts 3, 5, 8, 9
- People being saved – Acts 2:41-47, 6:7, 8-9, 10
- God answering prayers – Acts 2, 4
- Leaders being raised up and appointed - 6
- Disciples continuing to advance the gospel amidst persecution – Acts 4, 7, 8

**Group Discussion:** Share a time when God's presence has worked in you or in the life of someone else as you have made disciples.

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We have seen so far that God is both present in us through his Holy Spirit as we make disciples and in the world as He answers prayers, changes hearts, and works signs and miracles to advance the gospel. Yet, there is even a third way in which we experience God's presence: through fellow believers who are making disciples as well.

In Luke 10:1 Jesus sends out 72 disciples “two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.” And from that point on, rarely do we ever see a disciple alone as

they advance the gospel. They heal others together, they preach together, they travel together, they pray together, they eat together, and they even endure persecution together. Therefore, as we continue to make disciples (or begin to), we need to remember that there is nothing wrong with co-making disciples alongside another believer. In fact, Jesus' example and the rest of the New Testament would appear to encourage the practice.

In co-making disciples we will experience the value of an encourager as we become discouraged, a pray warrior when we are defeated, another voice of truth when we are out of words, another evangelist to re-emphasize the gospel, another servant to help meet needs, another God-glorifier when we become prideful, and another rejoicer when God bears fruit through our labors...just to name a few.

In short, as you seek to lovingly obey Christ through making disciples, you are not alone. God is with you and His power is at work in you. And we as a church are here with you as well to support you, encourage you, and pray for you.

**1. What are some specific ways we can go out together to make disciples?**

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**Go Make Disciples**

Take time this week to pray and discern who is someone you can either work alongside to make disciples, or someone who will partner with you to pray and encourage you as you go.

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**Praying This Week**

- Thank God for giving us His Spirit to be with us as we go make disciples.
- Ask God to encourage us with this good news and help us to remember it as we go.
- Ask the Spirit to give us men or women who will partner with us as we make disciples.