

DISCIPLESHIP

4. Call to makes Disciples



(Leader's Notes)

When Jesus sent the disciples out on their first mission, he gave them authority to heal the sick and cast out demons, and to preach the message of the Kingdom of heaven. However they were instructed to only go to the people of Israel. After Jesus' death and resurrection, he told them it was time to take this message to all nations. They were to make disciples, to baptize them and teach them to obey everything Jesus had commanded them. This commission wasn't only for those early disciples, it is for everyone who is a follower of Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:44-49

1. The Methods

- ♥ What did Jesus want these disciples to understand from the Old Testament scriptures? Luke 24:44-50
(He wanted them to understand that he had fulfilled everything that was spoken about in the Old Testament scriptures. Not only that, it was also prophesied that this message would be spread by those who witnessed these events, to all the nations of the world.)
- ♥ Summarize the content of what we are to include when we share the Gospel from Luke 24:46-49. What aspects of this message are often neglected or watered down do you think?
(We are to share that Jesus died and rose again on the 3rd day; that we can be forgiven of our sin if we believe in him and repent; that we will receive the Holy Spirit and then become his witnesses.)
- ♥ What four verbs in Matthew 28:19-20 describe our responsibilities as disciples of Jesus?
(We are to go, to make disciples, to baptize them and teach them to obey what Jesus commanded.)
- ♥ What do you think is the difference between making disciples and getting decisions? Discuss.
- ♥ Jesus said to teach the disciples to obey all he had commanded them. What do you think that includes?
(Jesus taught so much, but some important topics would be: forgiveness, obedience, prayer, giving, faith, loving God and others ...)

2. The Means

Jesus didn't commission the disciples to go and make disciples without giving them the assurance of his provision and presence.

- ♥ What were the assurances that Jesus gave to his disciples in Matthew 28:18, 20 and Luke 24:49?
(Jesus assured them that all authority had been given to him and he would be with them till the end of the age. He also said they would receive the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, who would give them power to fulfil this commission. These assurances were not only for those early disciples, but all who would follow in their footsteps.)

- ♥ What does Jesus mean when he says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me?” Based on that declaration Jesus tells them to ‘go’. Why is it important we know he has all authority when we ‘go’?

(Knowing Jesus has authority over everything on earth and in heaven, gives us the assurance that the message we share is the truth and that we do not need to be afraid of the power of the evil one. We can speak with confidence, knowing the One who is the greatest in the universe is with us.)
- ♥ Why do you think the Holy Spirit is referred to as ‘the promise of the Father’ in Luke 24:49?

(In the Old Testament the prophets had been speaking of the Spirit being outpoured on God’s people. This would be the fulfilment of that promise.)
- ♥ What are the results in a person’s life when we believe and are clothed with power according to Mark 16:17 and John 14:12?

(We will use the name of Jesus to cast out demons, we will speak in tongues, we will not be harmed by snakes or poison, and we will lay hands on the sick and they will recover. In John 14 it says we will do the same things Jesus did, and even greater.)
- ♥ How do our lives measure up? Why are some believers lacking in power? Share your thoughts?
- ♥ In Luke 9:1 we read that Jesus gave his disciples power and authority when he sent them out. As his disciples, we too have been given power and authority. What is the difference between power and authority, and what does each one mean?

(Power is the ability to do what Jesus tells us to do and we receive that power from the Holy Spirit. Authority is the legal right to speak and act on behalf of the one who gives the authority, and Jesus has given us the right to use his name.)

Jesus called his disciples to become disciple-makers, and now we are his disciples, we too are called to make disciples. This may seem a daunting task, but Jesus never asked us to do it alone. The promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit is for us too, and he will give us power to do the work of Jesus. Not only that, he has given us authority to use his name, a name more powerful than any other. Why not surrender yourself afresh to the Lord and ask him to fill you with his Spirit? Then, be available to do whatever he asks you.