

What is the Great Commission?

- Matt. 28:19 // 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,
 - As followers of Jesus, the church should be known for making disciples.
 - Every Christian is called by God to minister.
 - All Christians are called to make disciples.
 - The Christianity of our day has developed a culture where a minister ministers and the rest of us sit back and enjoy “church” from a comfortable distance.
- Q: What are we doing to build the Kingdom of God?

Using This Material

1) Teach what you learn.

- The emphasis of this study is to get you in the habit of passing along the knowledge you gain.

2) Share life, not just information.

- The discipleship process is meant to be highly relational. True discipleship involves deep relationships.
 - Discipleship is taught through words and actions.
 - God wants us to live, serve, and process His truth in the context of a community.
- God wants us to be talking about Him all throughout the week.
 - Discipleship is all about living life together rather than just one structured meeting per week.
 - Don't fall into the trap of studying the Bible without doing what it says. (James 1:22)

What is a Disciple?

- Matthew 16:24 // Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
- The original disciples were ordinary people like you and me.
- In only a few years, these simple men were standing before some of the most powerful rulers on earth and being accused of “turning the world upside down” (Acts 17:6).
- What began as simple obedience to the call of Jesus ended up changing their lives, and ultimately, the world.
- The word disciple refers to a student or apprentice.
- A disciple is a follower.
- Becoming a disciple of Jesus is as simple as obeying His call to follow.
- It's impossible to be a disciple or a follower of someone and not become like that person.

- Luke 6:40 // “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”
- The whole point of being a disciple of Jesus is to imitate Him, carry on His ministry, and become like Him in the process.

1. *Have we lost sight of what it means to be a follower of Jesus?*

2. *Up to this point in your life, would you call yourself a follower of Jesus Christ? Why do you say that? Do you see evidence of your faith as described in Luke 6:40?*

- The concept of being a disciple isn't difficult, but it affects everything.

How Do I Become a Disciple?

- The first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is repentance.
- Before Jesus called His first disciples “Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” - Matt. 4:17 (The King is coming, fight or peace)
- The word repent means “to turn.” It has the idea of changing directions and heading the opposite way. It involves action.
- Jesus was telling people to prepare themselves because God's kingdom (the kingdom of heaven) was approaching.
- Repentance begins with:
 - for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)
 - the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23)
 - But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8)
 - “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9)
- We cannot save ourselves, it is all about who Jesus is and what He has done.
- This is consistent with God's actions all throughout the Scriptures. In Exodus 12, we see that people had to trust in the blood of a lamb to save them—and this was the only way they could be saved.

3. *Read Ephesians 2 carefully and take some time to consider the truths it presents. Do you trust in the death of Christ for your salvation? Do you ever struggle with believing you need to do something to save yourself?*

The Lord of Grace

- Salvation is all about the grace of God.
 - Eph. 2:8-9 // For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- All salvation requires is faith: Do you believe that Jesus is who He says He is?
 - Heb. 11:6 // And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

- Faith in Jesus Christ means believing that He is Lord.
 - Rom. 10:9 // because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
- The title Lord refers to a master, owner, or a person who is in a position of authority.
- Many Christians want to “confess that Jesus is Lord,” yet they don’t believe that He is their master.
- The Lord who by His grace set us free from sin and death now owns us. We belong to Him, and He calls us to live in obedience to His rule.
 - 1 Cor. 6:19–20 // Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- If you call Jesus your Lord, then He sets the agenda, plan and calling for your life.

4. Evaluate your approach to following Jesus. Would you say that you view Jesus as your Lord, Master, and Owner? Why or why not?

It All Comes Down to Love

- Following Jesus is not about joyless sacrifice.
- Following Jesus boils down to two commands. Love God and love others.
 - Matt. 22:37–40 // And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”
- Following Jesus is not about diligently keeping a set of rules or conjuring up the moral fortitude to lead good lives.
- Following Jesus is all about loving God and enjoying Him.
- We can’t think that we can love God and live any way we want to, Jesus told us very clearly, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15).
- True love is all about sacrifice for the sake of the ones you love
 - 1 John 3:16 // “By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers”
- Our love for God and obedience to Jesus Christ cannot be separated.
- God’s love changes us from the inside out and redefines every aspect of our lives.

5. As you look at your life, how would you say that your love for God is shown in your actions? (If you’re having trouble coming up with an answer, take some time to think through some changes you may need to make in your lifestyle.)

Count the Cost

- Everything you study will be for the purpose of applying it to your life and teaching other people to do the same.
- Read the following words from Jesus slowly and carefully. Understand that Jesus is speaking these words to you.

Luke 14:25-33 // Now great crowds accompanied Him, and He turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

6. *If you choose to obey Jesus’s call to follow, what might it cost you? (Avoid being vague. If following Jesus would cost you specific possessions, comforts, or relationships, list them below.)*

7. *What might hold you back from following Jesus at this point? Are you willing to let go of these things if necessary?*

8. *Before we end this session, let’s spend some time in prayer. Ask God to work in your heart and prepare you for what is ahead. You don’t need to have all the answers or know specifically how God will use you. He simply calls you to follow wherever He might lead. As you pray, be honest about your doubts, hesitations, and fears. Ask Him to give you the strength to proceed and follow Him no matter what the cost. In other words, place your faith in Him.*

What we are working toward

- Studying the Bible is important, but the goal is never knowledge for the sake of knowledge.
- We study the Bible to learn about who God is, who we are, and what God is doing in our world.
- Being a disciple of Jesus Christ means that we learn from Him, fellowship with Him, and obey everything He commands us.
- Being a disciple of Jesus means that we are being transformed into His image. (2 Cor. 3:18)
- Teaching others about Christ is essential to being one of Jesus’ disciples
- Our goal is to train up other followers of Jesus who are more committed, talented, and equipped than we are.
- Our goal is to spend our life's raising up followers who will give everything for the glory of God.