

Small Group Guide COMMISSIONED BY THE KING

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

June 24, 2012

Matthew 28:16-20

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Welcome—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

Review—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

Prayer—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

Sermon Outline

COMMISSIONED BY THE KING Matthew 28:16-20

As Followers of Jesus in The Church at Brook Hills...

- We will believe in the authority of Christ.
 - Jesus is not just the personal Lord and Savior over us.
 - Jesus is the universal Lord and Savior over all.
 - He has authority over nature and nations.
 - He has authority over disease and demons.
 - He has authority over sin and death.
 - He has authority over our lives.
 - He has authority over every life.
 - Jesus' authority compels us to go.
 - His worth is the fuel of our mission.
 - His worship is the goal of our mission.
 - Jesus' authority gives us confidence as we go.
 - This gospel will save.
 - This mission will succeed.
- We will obey the command of Christ.
 - This is not a comfortable call for most Christians to come, be baptized, and sit in one location.

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- This is a costly command for every Christian to go, baptize, and make disciples of all nations.
 - Jesus' introduction in Matthew 4: Every follower of Jesus is a fisher of men.
 - Jesus' conclusion in Matthew 28: Every disciple is a disciple-maker.
- We share the Word.
 - We speak about the gospel as we live according to the gospel.
- We show the Word.
 - Baptism symbolizes identification with the person of Christ and inclusion in the body of Christ.
- We teach the Word.
 - We don't just receive the Word; we reproduce the Word.
- We serve the world.
 - This is not just a general command to make disciples among as many people as possible.
 - This is a specific command to make disciples among every people group in the world.
- May we make disciples and multiply churches in Birmingham and beyond.
- We will depend on the presence of Christ.
 - This mission is not based on who we are or what we can do.
 - This mission is based on who Jesus is and what He is able to do in and through our lives.
 - Together, let's experience the power of His presence with us.
 - Together, let's hope in the promise of His return for us.

Message Summary

Matthew 28:16-20 is commonly known as the Great Commission and is the conclusion of the Book of Matthew. Matthew repeatedly revealed the theme of Christ's Kingship, so the words of Christ recorded in these verses are an extremely fitting end to this book as they show that the ultimate point of Christianity goes beyond merely showing Christ as King, but of extending His Kingdom to all people groups. Believers have a part in the story of Matthew—to proclaim Christ as King.

The goal of today's message is to renew believers' zeal to make disciples of all nations—from our current neighbors to the vast un-reached people groups across the globe. The implications of the Great Commission demand that we believe in Christ's authority, obey Christ's commands, and depend on Christ's presence as we make Him known to all nations.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- Why is Jesus' authority the foundation of the Great Commission? What happens if we have an incorrect understanding of His authority?
- Jesus began His Commission by claiming His authority, which has both personal and universal implications. How could you share your personal story of coming to faith in Christ while emphasizing your decision to submit to His universal authority with an unbeliever? How would you explain your ongoing process of submitting to His authority?
- What does it mean for every Christ-follower to surrender their right to determine the direction of his or her life? Why is surrender so essential to a growing faith?
- Pastor David said, "Missions only makes sense if Christ has all authority." Why?
- Why do you think it's easier for Christians to be too busy doing "Christian things" to share the gospel with lost people?
- As you have come to realize that the greatest responsibility believers have is to lead others to know about Christ, how has God led you to share your faith? Has obedience to sharing about Christ been costly to you? How have you felt the Holy Spirit's empowerment as you've shared Christ with others?

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- Can our faith grow apart from sharing the gospel with others?
- Can our faith grow apart from sharing our lives with other believers? How have you experienced personal growth as you have helped another believer to grow in their relationship with Christ?
- How do you listen to something differently when you listen with the intention of repeating it? How should that thought impact the way we listen to the teaching of God's Word knowing that we are supposed to reproduce that teaching to others?
- If the command in the Great Commission is to "make disciples," how does 'going', 'baptizing', and 'teaching others to obey' Christ flow from that command?
- Pastor David said that the reason we have the Holy Spirit is to carry out the Great Commission (Acts 1:8). How are you learning to walk in the Spirit? As He bears fruit in you and makes you holy, has that opened the door for you to share the gospel?
- Pastor David encouraged us to put down our small dreams and worldly ambitions, knowing it won't be easy and it will be costly, but also knowing it will definitely be worth it. What hinders you from letting go of your small dreams and worldly ambitions and giving God a blank check for your life?
- How are you currently serving the world, intentionally carrying the gospel to those who need to hear it?
- Is God leading you, or your small group, to help take the gospel to an un-reached people group? How do you know? How can you pray about where God is leading you with a "blank check" on the table?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

Weekly Prayer Focus ... (from the worship guide)

- **Church:** *Pray our response to all we have studied in Matthew would be to fall at the feet of Jesus and worship Him. Pray we would daily live as humble, loyal subjects to our sovereign King who has been given all authority. Pray we would all embrace the task of making disciples of all nations as the primary focus of our lives. Ask for God's guidance in where we each should be going as individuals to proclaim the gospel. Ask the Spirit to help us recall all we learn from God's Word so that we might teach it to others. Pray for all of us to live with a sense of urgency in regards to fulfilling the Great Commission.*
- **Local:** *This week we are praying for 6th Avenue Baptist Church, John L. Cantelow, III, Pastor. We are also praying for Daniel Cason Ministries, a ministry to urban children through their K.I.D.S. Christian Music Center and camps; a ministry to the homeless, hungry, and needy in downtown Birmingham by providing food and clothes; and a ministry to urban shut-ins.*

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- **Global:** *This week we are praying for our team serving in Dominican Republic. We are also praying for Brook Hills Long-Term Missionary, Hannah Davis, serving in Johannesburg, South Africa. Hannah serves in a support role as an accountant for other missionaries serving with the International Mission Board.*