

# Small Group Discussion

## Week 20



### Chapter 20 – The Great Commission

Remember, teach what you learn and share life, not just information.

#### Coaching Conversations:

One way to be intentional over these closing weeks is to come up with some experiencing questions to challenge your group members. An experiencing question facilitates the application of God's truth specifically to the group member's lives. A correct understanding of Scripture should always lead to application and you as the leader have the opportunity to guide your group into application. As Francis Chan says on pg. 264, "It's not enough to merely absorb the information – you must respond to it!" An example of an experiencing question would be question #8 on page 275 – "Given your specific setting, what would it look like to pursue the Great Commission through the power of the spirit?" Another question you could ask might be, "How is your life radically different because of Jesus?" Whether you use experiencing questions from the book or come up with your own, make sure that your discussion includes time to process these questions as a group and consider how you, as the leader, can follow-up with your group members in regards to their responses. Don't be afraid to challenge your members with these questions and allow them to see how you are personally applying them as well. Let's be sure to actually apply Scripture and what we're learning to our lives, rather than being "forgetful hearers" (James 1:22-25).

#### How HIS-story becomes My Story:

**GOD'S STORY** - God uses the Church as his method to reach the world.

**OUR STORY** - We, as believers, are the Church; commissioned to reach the world with the Gospel message.

**MY STORY** - My response as a disciple is to make disciples in order to fulfill the Great Commission.

#### Starting the Conversation:

Can anyone in your group recite the Great Commission from memory? Since this was Jesus' final command (and not a suggestion...) before ascending into heaven, it's a great verse to memorize. Begin your group time by having each member try to recite Matthew 28:18-20 from memory. The mere repetition might show your group members that memorization isn't really that tough; you just have to do it.

## Life Group Questions

1. Read Luke 24 and Acts 1:1–11. As you read, place yourself in the scene and try to feel the significance of these events. How do the circumstances surrounding the Great Commission add significance to Jesus's words?
2. We can get so caught up in our own personal relationships with God that we forget to think about the global implications of the Great Commission. Why is it important to see the mission of the church as a global calling?
3. Why do you think Jesus would give us the strategy of disciple making as the means for accomplishing our mission on earth?
4. Consider the significance of baptism. Discuss your own experience with baptism.
5. What role should teaching play in our Christian lives and in the life of the church?
6. Most likely, you already believe that God's presence is with you as you seek to honor Him in this world. Consider this statement "I am with you always." How should this statement affect your daily life and the way you view your God-given mission?
7. Have you ever tried to follow Jesus apart from the power of the Holy Spirit? Why is this approach bound to end in frustration?
8. Given your specific setting, what would it look like to pursue the Great Commission through the power of the Spirit?
9. Read Revelation 7:9–12. This passage gives us a vision of the end of the story. This life will conclude with an enormous community of redeemed people from every nation, tribe, people, and language praising God together for His salvation. How should this vision of the end of the story affect the way we think about our mission now?

### Prayer Assignment:

Ask God to affect your heart with the urgency of the mission He has given you and the other Christians in your life. Ask Him for the strength, wisdom, and perseverance to pursue His mission in the strength of His Spirit.