

HIS STORY. YOUR STORY.

WEEK 3: YOUR PURPOSE

FULFILLING YOUR LIFE PURPOSE



BIG IDEA: We are called to an important role in God's Story - to make disciples

DATE: 2/14 & 2/18

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME GUESTS

PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES: Pass around the prayer notebook and include any answers or updates to prayers/praises.

OPENING QUESTION

If you were to go up to people on the street and ask them "What is the purpose of life?", how do you think they would answer? What would *you* say is the purpose of life?

[[WATCH VIDEO](#)]

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How does the enemy distract you? What do you need to watch for that redirects your time away from loving God with all, loving all, and making disciples?

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 28:18-20(NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Highlight some key words and draw from commentary below.

GO –what does this show? (it isn't passive – it is a call to action)
MAKE DISCIPLES – a specific command to obey; it is our purpose in life!
ALL NATIONS – not just for us but for all; not exclusive but inclusive
BAPTIZING – a sign of conversion
TEACHING THEM TO OBEY – not just head knowledge
WITH YOU ALWAYS – empowering, comforting, brings courage

What does this passage teach us about God? *(Possible answers: He wants as many people as possible to know Him and follow Him; He includes us in His plan to make disciples; He is with us always)*

What does this passage teach us about humanity? *(Possible answers: our God-given purpose is to make disciples, we are part of His plan; this is a command to obey; we are to care and go to ALL nations)*

APPLICATION EXERCISE

"Share Your Testimony" handout. Fill it out silently and then group up to share it. Leaders share the following: In order to GO and MAKE DISCIPLES we need to know how to share our story. Explain when most people hear the phrase "share my testimony" they think of a long dramatic story – where most of the focus is on life *before* Christ with lots of details about the depravity (drugs, alcohol, partying, rebellion, etc.) then only a sentence or two on how they found Christ. (Or they think they do not have a testimony because they found Christ early in life and never had a dramatic conversion.) But there needs to be a balance between the BEFORE Christ and AFTER Christ. The focus is on Jesus and what He has done to transform your life! Walk them through the worksheet, share yours as an example and then give them time to fill theirs out. Have them share it at their tables or turn to their neighbor and share it out loud. Give them time to practice sharing it.

CHALLENGE: Share your testimony with someone this week. Look for those divine appointments! This is a teaser so to speak – it is not all the theology you have ever learned – but a 2-minute teaser of how your life has changed. It can open the door to a spiritual conversation and provide a good lead in to sharing the 3 Circles we learned last week.

READING PLAN

2/18: Day 15 **2/19:** Day 16 **2/20:** Day 17 **2/21:** Day 18 **2/22:** Day 19 **2/23:** Day 20 **2/24:** Day 21

COMMENTARY

The declarations of Jesus in 28:18-20 contain two major elements. First, Jesus announces that **all authority** has been given to him (by God) (v.18). The notion of authority involves both the power to act and the right to act. Although Jesus exercised authority throughout his ministry (e.g., 7:29), in consequence of his resurrection he now possesses all authority everywhere.

Second, because Jesus possesses all-inclusive authority, all persons everywhere should be brought under his sovereign rule (vv. 19-20a). Previously the disciples were to go only to Israel

(10:5-6), but now they are to **make disciples of all nations**. Jesus indicates that making disciples involves (1) baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (this is initial and relates to conversion), and (2) teaching them to obey the commandments Jesus has given his disciples throughout the gospel (this is ongoing and relates to the nurture of Christians). As the disciples perform this missionary work, they can be assured of the continuous presence of the resurrected Christ (v. 20b). Jesus will be with the disciples to help them overcome all obstacles that stand in the way of fulfilling this mission. Even now Jesus remains in the midst of his people, speaking words of comfort and guidance as the church performs its missionary work in the world.