

## ***“The Great Commission”***

### ***Missions Weekend***

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This weekend was “Missions Weekend” at New Life. We heard from Pastor Scott Rainey about his ministry in Ukraine. While most of us think of “Missionaries” like Scott as the ones being called to take the Gospel to the nations, we too are called to be missionaries sharing God’s love wherever we go. In the lobby this weekend many ministries displayed the various ways that they share Jesus with the world. This study will help us hear and respond to the call of Jesus to spread the gospel.

#### **Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)**

Who was the person you consider most influential in your decision for Christ?

#### **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

**Go!**

#### **Q1. Read Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 1:8; John 15:16-17**

The Gospel according to Matthew ends with what is known as the great commission. In this passage Jesus gives the church its marching orders. We are to go into every part of the world. Does that mean God is sending you to Africa? Probably not. What are the locations from which the disciples were sent to be witnesses in Acts 1:8? Notice they started in the familiar town of Jerusalem and moved outward only after the Holy Spirit empowered them to do so.

In John 15:16 Jesus commands his disciple to “go” and bear fruit. What is the reason he gives for that command in verse 17? Does knowing that Jesus sends out into the world to love others, and that He will be with us always, give you more confidence to step out and go?

#### **Make Disciples**

#### **Q2. Read Matthew 11:29; Luke 6:47-48**

Our purpose is to make disciples. A disciple is one who follows another’s precepts and instructions. So if you are going to make disciples for Jesus, what should you do to prepare yourself? After people respond to the gospel and are converted, they are to become disciples of Jesus. Jesus said learn of me. What do you find in Matthew 11:29 that would make you want to follow him? How did Jesus describe the man who becomes his disciple?

#### **Every Nation**

#### **Q3. Read Luke 2:10-11; Luke 24:45-47**

The Great Commission calls us to go to “all nations” because the message of Christ is for the entire world. The angels proclaimed it at his birth (Luke 2:10-11) and the risen Christ confirmed it to the disciples (Luke 24:45-47). You may not personally visit foreign lands to bring the gospel, but there are so many other ways for you to partner in spreading the good news. Share with your group, any projects or organizations you are involved with that reach those outside of the church.

#### **WRAP-UP**

The message of the gospel is good news for the entire world. Jesus sent his disciples out from Jerusalem after they had received power from the Holy Spirit. He sent them because he wanted them to bear fruit and love one another. In order to make disciples, we ourselves need to understand what it means to follow Jesus. If we have experienced the blessings of discipleship, we will happily share the good news with others. Our mission field may be right in our own hometown, or it may be in a foreign country. But if we cannot go ourselves, we can certainly partner with others who take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

#### **Memory Verse**

*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 - Matthew 28:19-20 ESV*

#### **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:\_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space)\_\_\_\_\_

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#### **Challenge**

*Look for an opportunity to support a missionary or a ministry that reaches the “unchurched.” Pray about participating in a short-term this year.*

Matthew 28:19-20 ESV - 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Acts 1:8 ESV - 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

John 15:16-17 ESV - 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should **go** and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

**Q2.**

Matthew 11:29 ESV - 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Luke 6:47-48 ESV - 47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

### Q3

Luke 2:10-11 ESV - 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 24:45-47 ESV - 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

**Prayer requests con't** \_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.