



## GETTING STARTED

> *As your group time begins, use this section for very brief review prior to showing the video to help get the conversation going.*

### Conversation Starters/Questions

Other than a pastor or family members did anyone reach out to you to share the Good News or to teach you how to obey God? How did they do that? Where would you be now if they had never reached out to you?

What resources do you need in order to carry out your responsibilities at your job or in your home? What would happen if you didn't have access to one or more of them?

### SUGGESTED ANSWERS:

Some resources could include: financial support, direction on how to do the work, authority to do the job, sufficient time, physical space to complete the work, support of co-workers, education or training.

## VIDEO NOTES >[Play Video](#)

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Read *Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:26 and Matthew 1:23*

1) What three resources did God provide to carry out the Great Commission?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS: Each resource will be discussed individually in the next 3 questions.

1. Jesus' authority (Matt 28: 18-19)
2. The Holy Spirit (John 14:26)
3. The presence of God (Matt 1:23 and 28:20)

\*An explanation of the Great Commission is in the notes, page 5.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS (cont.)

Read *Matthew 28:18-20*

2) Why is coming under the Authority of Jesus necessary?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS: It gives us the right to speak to others on His behalf because we have been given the ministry of reconciliation. (*2 Cor 5:17-21*)

For further study: How much authority does Jesus have? *Matt 28:18* (over all); *Col 1:16-18* (over the church); *Eph 1:20-21* (over all things) *John 16:33* (over the world); *John 17:2* (over all flesh); *Heb 2:14* (over death and the devil); *1 Cor 15:24* (over nations and rulers)

Why would someone *not* submit to Jesus' authority?

What are the benefits of submitting to Jesus' authority?

Read *John 14:26 and 16: 7- 8*

3) What does the Holy Spirit provide for us or do for us?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS: He teaches us and reminds us of Jesus' teaching, He helps people come to repentance because He convicts us about our sin, He gives us power to witness (*Acts 1:8*)

For further study: Other activities of the Holy Spirit: *Eph 5:18*; *John 16:13-14*; *Luke 4:14*; *Acts 4:31*.

Read *Matthew 1:23 and Hebrews 13:5*

4) What difference would it make in your life if you believed that God is always with you?

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS: How would an awareness of God's presence affect your witness? Your service of others? Your words? Your thoughts? Your hobbies? Your prayer life? Your daily schedule? Your relationships with others? Your financial decisions?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS (cont.)

5) What comes to mind when you hear the word "missions"? How do missions connect with the Great Commission?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS: Some think that missions and missionaries are only for foreign countries and only some persons are missionaries. Some think that missions refers only to humanitarian help and that evangelism refers to sharing the Gospel. Some consider missions and the Great Commission to be synonymous. Jesus is our role model in this area. He healed and preached. (*Matthew 4:23 and 9:35*) Jesus was motivated by compassion. (*Matt 9: 36; Luke 7: 13*) Christians are to be involved in both aspects of reconciling the world to God by caring for the needs of others and making disciples.

6) How do the three resources God provided help us carry out the Great Commission? How will you, by faith, live and walk in this power and authority? How can we, as a church, walk together to reach the world for Jesus Christ?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS: When and how have you realized that you needed one or more of these resources as you reached out to others? Which of these resources are you using the least? How can your pastors and church leaders help you use these resources more effectively? How will you turn to God so He can work in and through you?

## SUMMARY (My Take-Away for This Week)

- ⇒ I have three powerful resources to carry out the Great Commission.
- ⇒ I want to come under Jesus' authority, and live by the power of the Holy Spirit in God's presence.
- ⇒ I can work together with others to help reach the world for Christ.

## WORK OUT (This Week's Assignments)

- Today, discuss how your group will SERVE TOGETHER off campus.
- Consider and discuss SERVING TOGETHER at the **PumpkinPalooza Run/Walk** on 10/28
- Consider and discuss SERVING TOGETHER with parking or greeting on Saturday or Sunday
- Today, stop and pray for your Andrew / Empty chair
- Someone share about influencing your Andrew

## MY NEXT STEPS

1. Today, I will visit the Mission tent to receive information on opportunities to Reach Beyond Our Walls locally, domestically and internationally.
2. This week, I will pray for the Mission Partners our church supports.
3. This week, I will read the book of Acts to learn about the Great Commission in action through the early church.

## HOW MY GROUP CAN PRAY FOR ME THIS WEEK

> Record Group Prayer Request Here:

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## COMMENTARY

**Pillar of Influence #1: Be Intentional****Pillar of Influence #2: Pray With Hope****Pillar of Influence #3: Reach Beyond Our Walls****Question 1.**

**Great Commission:** John's end-time vision is of a vast multitude from every "tribe, people, and language" redeemed before God's throne (*Rev. 7:9–10*). Jesus commissioned His disciples to carry the gospel even "to the ends of the earth" (*Acts 1:8*). The multinational, multiethnic character of the NT church testifies not only to the universality of the gospel message (*Rom. 10:11–12*) and to the personal reconciliation accomplished at the cross (*Eph. 2:14–16*), but also to the global extent of the coming reign of Christ (*Ps. 2:8*). Thus, obedience to the Great Commission (*Matt. 28:16–20*) is not simply a function of the church but is essential to her identity as the people of God. (Russell D. Moore, "Church," ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* [Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003])

**Question 2.**

**Matthew 28: 18-20:** Jesus had a big job in mind for his followers. **All** is a key word in 28:18–20. It emphasizes Jesus' divine identity: *all* authority, *all* nations, *all* things. Before issuing his commission, Jesus laid the foundation for the success of their future ministry: **All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me**. This was critically important. Without the Messiah's authority, the mission of the disciples and our mission today would be doomed to failure. The reader of Matthew's Gospel should know well by now the nature and power of the Messiah's authority. **Therefore** identified Jesus' authority (28:18) as the reason the disciples must carry out his orders. (Stuart K. Weber, *Matthew*, vol. 1, *Holman New Testament Commentary* [Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000])

**Question 3.**

**The Holy Spirit:** The FishHawk Fellowship Church Statement of Faith concerning the Holy Spirit can be found at <http://www.fishhawkfc.org/about/what-we-believe/>)

**John 14:26:** Here the Holy Spirit is referred to as the "Counselor" who will be with the disciples forever (14:16). Note that Jesus called the Holy Spirit "another" Counselor, suggesting that the work of the Holy Spirit would take the place of His role in their lives. The word "Counselor" is a legal term that goes beyond legal assistance to that of any aid given in time of need (*1 John 2:1*). The Greek word is Paraclete, which suggests adviser, encourager, exhorter, comforter, and intercessor. The idea is that the Spirit will always stand alongside the people of God. The Spirit testifies to the truth of God in Christ and brings people toward that truth through conviction leading to repentance and faith. The Spirit will continue to bring the presence of Christ into the lives of the disciples (14:16–18, 20). (James Emery White, "John" in *Holman Concise Bible Commentary*, ed. David S. Dockery [Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998])

**John 14:26:** The Holy Spirit reminds us of truth that Jesus taught. In the case of the disciples, it was an immediate application to their spiritual memories. In our case, it is assistance in understanding and applying the Word of God. In their lives and ours, constant awareness of the Spirit's presence is a daily practicality. (Kenneth O. Gangel, *John*, vol. 4, *Holman New Testament Commentary* [Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000])

## COMMENTARY

**Question 3 (cont.)**

**John 16:7-8:** The coming of the Paraclete will benefit or be good for the disciples, even though they had no understanding of the significance of this statement at the time. But when John wrote the Gospel, he understood fully the significance of that statement. Moreover, he understood the reverse side also. Fulfilling the condition for the coming of the Paraclete necessitated both Jesus' going and his sending the Paraclete to them. (Gerald L. Borchert, *John 12-21*, vol. 25B, The New American Commentary [Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002])

**Question 4.**

**Matthew 1:23:** Matthew is quick to support the doctrine of the virgin birth, and his quote in 1:23 is from *Isaiah 7:14*, originally written by the prophet Isaiah over seven hundred years before Jesus' birth. God is never so clearly present with his people as he is through his virgin-born Son, the Messiah of Israel. Jesus is Immanuel! The linguistic components of the name **Immanuel** and their individual translations—Im = "with," anu = "us," and el = "God"—make it clear that Isaiah's original prophecy could refer in its fullest sense only to the promised Messiah. This name of Jesus is a strong argument for his deity. (Stuart K. Weber, *Matthew*, vol. 1, Holman New Testament Commentary [Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000])

**Question 5.**

**Mission:** Task on which God sends a person that He has called, particularly a mission to introduce another group of people to salvation in Christ. The mission of the churches is to send our missionaries to all parts of the world until everyone has had the opportunity to hear the message of Jesus and accept Him as Lord.

**Old Testament:** Mission is an important OT concept. Its foundation lies in the understanding that the transcendent God is also the God who is involved in history. The record of His involvement in history indicates that His work is both revelatory and redemptive. As indicated in the listing of the nations in *Gen. 10*, God's interest has been in all people, not just in Israel.

**New Testament:** The mission begins with Jesus who was sent to earth to reveal the Father (*John 1:18; 14:9*), to glorify Him (*John 13:31; 14:13; 17:1, 6*), to bring the kingdom of God on earth (*Matt. 12:22-32*), and to make God's love and mercy known to a lost world. Through His teachings Jesus made clear that His mission was to continue after He ascended. (*Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21-22; Acts 1:8*). The church was to cross all barriers—to reach out to all ethnic groups, clans, tribes, social classes, and cultures. The message of salvation was to be shared with all people everywhere. (Bob Compton, "Mission(s)," ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* [Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003])

**Matthew 4:23:** As Jesus' public ministry gets underway, he travels throughout Galilee, preaching spontaneously to open-air crowds and making guest appearances in local synagogues. Jesus heals many, not as an ordinary physician, as will become clear, but by drawing on supernatural power. Matthew enumerates several categories of maladies that Jesus cures. Jesus' miracle working understandably attracts crowds, but those in the crowds will need to be instructed on what true discipleship involves if they are to become genuine followers. (Craig Blomberg, *Matthew*, vol. 22, The New American Commentary [Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992])

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