

## Day 1

November 26



*Pray | Pray to overcome any doubts you have about Jesus.*

Imagine the confusion and disbelief. It had only been a few days since Jesus had died. Now Jesus, the King, had risen from the grave, death had been conquered, and he was ready to give instructions to his disciples. The disciples had been informed that Jesus had risen, and would be heading to Galilee (Matthew 28:7). Excited for this news, they went there to meet their Savior, the one they had been waiting for, the one not too long ago that they thought they had lost forever. When they saw him, they worshiped. But as we read this passage, we will see that some still doubted.



*Read | Matthew 28:1-17*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Why do you think some struggled with doubt even as they looked at the resurrected Jesus? Who do you know today that doubts the story of Jesus? Pray for them to open their hearts to the truth.

The presence of doubt in Matthew 28:17 is confusing considering they were looking at the risen Jesus. What does the presence of doubt at this event say about our desires for tangible evidences to overcome our own doubts? What causes Christians to doubt today? Have you recently doubted?

Think about how you might have reacted to the appearance of the risen Christ. How would you react to seeing Jesus today, awe and amazement, or disbelief?

## Day 2

November 27



*Pray | Give all authority in your life to Jesus.*

Jesus has authority—supreme authority. Jesus received complete authority and power over heaven and earth from God. God has exalted Jesus, and his resurrection was more proof of his authority and his power. Here at the end of the Gospel of Matthew, with authority, Jesus will direct his disciples to go into the world on mission. But before he shared his commission with his disciples, he established the strength behind it—himself. Paul continues to remind us of Jesus' authority in several of his letters.



*Read | Matthew 28:18; Colossians 2:9-10; Romans 14:9*

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*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

We are being sent out into the world by the authority of Jesus. What areas of your life does Jesus have authority in and what areas does he not? How can you let go of control, and let Jesus in?

What fears do you have that would keep you from obeying Jesus' mission for you? How does the reality of Jesus' authority over all of heaven and earth help you overcome those fears?

It was as important for Jesus' disciples to understand his authority over all things. It is as important for us to understand Jesus' authority today. We sometimes have conflict and struggle with the authority figures in our day to day life. How does knowing that Jesus has ultimate authority alter your perspective with these conflicts? Pray for your authority figures, that they can know Jesus and understand his ultimate authority.

## Day 3

November 28



*Pray* | *To have courage to share the story of Jesus with someone today.*

Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all nations was not just a suggestion; Jesus wasn't telling the disciples that *maybe* they should go, or go *if they could squeeze it in*. No, this is an order to be obeyed. "Go" in this passage is a verb that means to travel or journey, and the disciples were expected to obey.

We too are called by this command, but where do we go? The Lord doesn't tell us exactly where to go. He didn't demand that we all leave home; he simply said to go and make disciples of all nations. He didn't say if we are to go to a foreign land, to our neighbor across the street, or even within our house for our own family members. But we do know that the call to make disciples is a call to action. And there's no mistake that Jesus would say "all nations." *All* encompasses *every* place on this earth. Jesus wants no stone unturned, and no land to be barren of his name. His desire is for the gospel to be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.



*Read* | *Matthew 28:16-19*



*Reflect* | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

How well have you been following Jesus' command? What places have you gone to in order to share the gospel and make disciples? What places are on your heart to go to with the good news of Jesus?

For you to live out the Great Commission every day, everywhere you go, what changes or commitments in your daily life do you need to make?

Our temptation not to share our faith and the gospel is often rooted in fear—the fear of tarnishing our worldly image. We have been given the power to share the gospel by the grace of God through the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to be with us always. So step out in faith. We have nothing to fear. Who will you reach out to this week to share the good news of Jesus?

## Day 4

November 29



*Pray | Ask for courage in publicly proclaiming your faith.*

Once we have proclaimed the good news to all people, and once they have placed their faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus on the cross, then Jesus commands us to baptize these new disciples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is the faithful display of that saving work of Jesus. It is a proclamation of the work that has been done in the believer's heart. It is an outward sign of the inward transformation of the believer, a move from death (sin) to life (Jesus).

Just as evangelism or disciple-making is a part of the call to mission, so is baptism. Baptism does not save, it does not wash away your sin, only the blood of Jesus can do that. But baptism is an important aspect of our Christian witness. Being baptized in faith publicly proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ to a watching world.



*Read | Matthew 28:19-20*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

How might we unintentionally downplay the importance of baptism as a part of the Great Commission? If you have not been baptized yet, spend some time in prayer considering baptism this year. If you have been baptized, consider sharing your experience with other Christians that have not chosen baptism.

Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations, but to be a disciple, we must believe in Jesus, and commit our lives to serving him. Spend a moment in prayer, committing your heart and your life to Jesus, living your life for him and with him every day, even through your flaws and weaknesses.

Consider making verses 19-20 your memory verses for this week.

“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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” If you don't regularly memorize scripture, pray and ask God to help you with this discipline.

## Day 5

November 30



*Pray | Ask God for opportunities to go make disciples of all nations.*

The Great Commission isn't solely about evangelism; it's about discipleship as well. God promises to finish the good work he begins (Philippians 1:6), and he instructs us to participate in that work through learning about and obeying him. Christians are further instructed to teach the new disciples as we see in Matthew 28. We are all called to go and disciple believers in Christ.

At the conclusion of his instructions and commands, Jesus lovingly reminded the disciples (and us) that they will not be alone in their mission: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" he says (Matthew 28:20 ESV). What began with a declaration of his power and authority ends with the declaration of his faithful presence even to the end of time and then forevermore.



*Read | Matthew 28:16-20*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

We are a busy society. The busyness and chaos of day to day life can lead us to forget our ultimate mission: spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. How can you reprioritize your to do list to make God's mission your number one priority?

We are called to disciple disciples. How have you experienced being disciplined by another in your own life? Are you a member of a small group? If not, consider joining one today. If so, reflect on the impact your small group has had on your faith journey.

Jesus was with the disciples physically until he descended into heaven, and then spiritually through the Holy Spirit, just as he is with us now. Stop and reflect on the fact that the Holy Spirit is with you right now. How does this change your perspective for your day?

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