

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:16-20

April 7, 2021

Intro Discussion:

What takeaways do you have from the Easter season? What did God teach you at Easter this year?

What happens in the Gospel accounts between Easter and Jesus' ascension to heaven? (Scan the last few chapters of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.)

What do you think those 40 days would have been like for Jesus' followers? Why?

Read the Great Commission, Matthew 28:16-20.

- How do the first two verses describe the disciples?
 - What reasons did the disciples have to worship Jesus?
 - What kinds of doubts do you think they had?
 Can you sympathize with some of those doubts?
- Read Jesus' words in **verses 18-20** again.
 - What words and phrases stand out to you? Why?
 - Spend a few minutes discussing Jesus' claim to have "all authority in heaven and on earth." What does this mean? (If you have time, maybe use a concordance to do a quick study of the word authority in Matthew. What kind of authority does Jesus have?)
 - Why do you think Jesus emphasized His authority before giving any commands to His disciples in these verses? How might it have made them feel?
 - List the things that Jesus tells His disciples to do in **verses 19-20**, and discuss each one.
 - What does each command mean?
 - How are we also called to obey each command?
- What promise does Jesus make at the end of the Great Commission? How does this promise encourage you?

Based on what we have studied so far in Acts 1-20:

- In what specific ways did Jesus' followers obey the Great Commission?
- How did Jesus fulfill His promise to be with them?

We will pick back up in our study of Acts next Wednesday for the conclusion of the book. For the final unit, our emphasis in every study will be on what it means to be on mission. Each week, we will study a passage from Acts, and we will also spend some time discussing a missions focus question.

Missions Focus:

How big of a role does being on mission have in your life? Why?

What things motivate you to be on mission? What things keep you from being on mission?