

The Great Commission - God's Mission and our place in it

This week we want to take some time to dive into the Bible and let it speak to us about the most important thing that shapes what we are about in Cru - it's called the Great Commission. The hope tonight is that our eyes are lifted to heaven - seeing God's heart, His mission, and to consider how it connects to our lives.

After Jesus rose from the dead, for 40 days he continued revealing Himself to the disciples and others who witnessed Him teaching and ministering. What we will read are His last words to the 11 disciples before ascending to heaven, as recorded in Matthew chapter 28.

Read Matthew 28:16-20

*(Sticking points/points of interest -
-Nations - in the original language - it means ethnic groups - so it's talking about all peoples of the world
-"Some doubted" - this is neat because it means that Jesus gave this calling to all the disciples, so we can infer it also is for all believers, those that are more "confident" in the faith, and those with uncertainties/fears too)*

1. What do you like about this passage?
2. What do you find challenging or difficult to understand in this passage?
3. What appears to be the main idea emphasized in this passage? (Look for repeated words or ideas.)
4. How do you feel about Jesus' call to all believers to be involved in his great commission?

Let's read a couple other short passages to see how it increases our understanding about this topic. We'll talk about the same question for each.

(Leader - as you walk through each passage, try to summarize it's main idea before you move onto the next - hear what the members share, and if needed help them connect the dots to the Great Commission.)

Read Romans 10:11-14- How do you see this connecting to the great commission/evangelism/call to make disciples?

(We're invited to play a critical role in helping others know the love of Christ - and it's a beautiful thing as believers reveal Him to others.)

Read Acts 1:8. (Jesus speaking) -How do you see this connecting to the great commission/evangelism/call to make disciples?

(We don't do this in our own power/alone, this is for all people of the world, it involves a step into unfamiliarity)

The setting of This next passage is the first time the disciples see the resurrected Jesus as a group - they were fearful after Jesus was crucified and were hiding out

Read John 20:19-21 -

How do you see this connecting to the great commission/evangelism/call to make disciples?

(it is our calling too, he gives His presence/peace)

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Read Matthew 22:35-40- How do you see this connecting to the great commission/evangelism/call to make disciples?

(we live in light of the Great Commission out of an overflow of our love for God and humanity, those he has created)

APPLY

- Summarize ...Big picture way

- Share something like this in your own words - Basically our reason for talking about this:

As Cru, our mission and vision comes from this calling by Jesus to all believers. This informs everything we do, from Life Group to Real Life, how we reach out to others on campus, summer missions, spring breaks, to what we hope each of you experiences in your personal relationship with God. Our hope is to bring attention to these things and also help us all consider how our lives can connect to this. If you are a follower of Christ, we believe this is a life purpose Jesus invites you into by His loving authority. If you are considering who Jesus is to you, we hope that tonight's scriptures brought out the lengths to which he is pursuing you and each person in the World, out of love and compassion, a desire for you to be in relationship with Him.

So..let's connect this to us!

- Which of these passages connects most with your heart? Why?

- Do you consider yourself to be someone sent on a mission by God? Why or why not?
- Whether this is a new idea for you or familiar, what thoughts or feelings come to mind? (Could be "let's go!," uncertainty, curiosity, etc. There is no wrong answer)
- What is stopping you from being a part of this? What seems like your biggest barrier?
- What is one way we can encourage you personally toward living out the Great Commission in your own life?
Share Ex.:
 - Could be fighting a fear
 - Needing a tangible step
 - Having someone join you in thinking about this more

If you are in need of a practical tangible way to think about this more, consider these words -

Pray, Go, Give

We're going to pass around a helpful resource to think about everyday ways that we can live in light of the Great Commission. We want to be about this as a community and do this together, so it would be a great thing to bring into convos with friends or in discipleship.

PRAY IN GROUPS TO CLOSE