

What's So Great About Following Jesus? - The Great Commission
Lynn Haven UMC
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Introduction

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
(Matthew 28:16-20 NIV)

Digging Deeper

Make disciples and baptize them.

- 2/3 of God = Go! If we are living with Christ, we are called to go and make disciples. In Matthew 4:19 (NIV), Jesus called His first disciples. What are some things we could do to become "fishers of people" right here in Florida? What about as you travel throughout the country? The world?
- Baptize them. Most of us are not pastors so we might think, "How can I do this?" As Christians, we are called to evangelize. Discuss what you think Jesus meant when He asked us to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Once a person is baptized they have a new identity in Christ. Romans 12:2 (NIV) tells us "do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." How can we employ the power of this new identity to help us resist conformity when we live in a culture that provides temptation at every turn?

God is with us.

- Discuss what "doing life with God" means. Obviously, our experience is different from that of those who lived alongside Jesus over 2,000 years ago. But what do you think are some of the similarities with regard to the challenges faced then and now by those of us who identify as Christians?
- Obedience. Some people take their pets to obedience school in an effort to modify behaviors that are, in their estimation, unacceptable. Maybe, in a similar fashion, God is trying to send us to obedience school by calling us to this Great Commission. Discuss some of the personal and worldly barriers that might be standing in the way of our full obedience to this calling.
- Living in a comfort zone is the equivalent of us doing things our way instead of living with God His way. Comfort zones are great. But nothing ever grows there. What does your comfort zone look like? How you can step outside of it to more effectively execute Jesus' Great Commission?

Conclusion

The Great Commission is a big ask. In our brokenness, we would prefer to shirk these kind of lofty expectations. But let's recall some information we gained from this week's sermon, "God wants to do life with us." And when He does, we get to experience the Kingdom of God as described by Christ. How do we "do life" with God? We honor His sacrifice by cleansing ourselves of sin through repentance and confession so that we may receive the sacrament of His Great Feast (Communion). With changed hearts and minds, we live in accordance with His Great Requirement. With God-filled hearts we follow His Great Commandment by loving Him first, and then loving others as we do ourselves. And finally, with obedience we act upon His Great Commission by standing on the street corners with our proverbial newspapers shouting, "Hear all about Him!"