

Discipleship Group Study #4

REACH THE WORLD

This is the last of four studies your Discipleship Group will use. The purpose of this final study is to expand your vision, love, and impact in reaching unbelievers with the Gospel. We are all naturally drawn to care for ourselves and to invest within our local church. Yet sadly there are still many unbelievers around us every day who are outside of the promises and blessings of God! The call of Christ is that we find ways to share our story and His story with the lost. In this study we will understand our mission, discern our current involvement in it, and decide how to leverage our time, talents, and treasures to increase our missional impact.

LOOKING BACK

1. Since our last meeting, were you able to find a practical way to love someone? How did it go?
2. In what ways are you struggling to grow your faith in God?

LOOKING UP

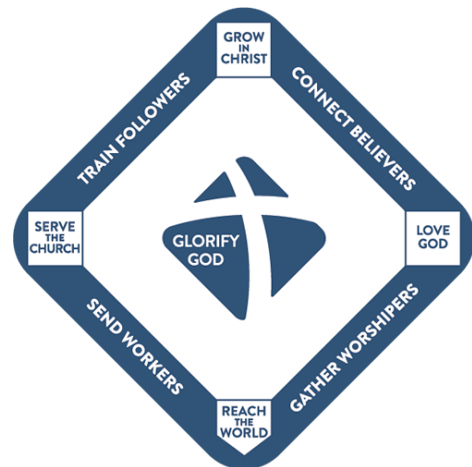
OPENING QUESTION

3. What is your favorite place in the world that you have visited? Why?

READ: Matthew 28:18-20

EXPLORE

4. Who is Jesus speaking to in this passage? What is significant about the setting?
5. What command does Jesus give to His disciples? What does this entail?
6. According to v.18, what is the basis for such a command?
7. What comforting assurance does Jesus give His disciples?



DISCUSS

8. What is the authority that has been granted to Jesus? What made Him worthy to receive such authority?
9. How does Jesus' authority connect to the mission of evangelism?
10. Why do you think God chooses to use us in His mission to take the Good News to the world?
11. From this passage, what do you perceive is involved in the process of making disciples?
12. Why is it important for us to not only share the Gospel but to teach them the commands and promises of God?
13. What difference does Jesus' continual presence make in our evangelism?

LOOKING FORWARD

APPLY

14. What were the contributing factors in your salvation? Which of those factors are important to use in your disciple-making efforts?
15. If you were to share your story of salvation with an unbeliever, how might you effectively do so in under three minutes? Take turns practicing.
16. What most holds you back from being more evangelistic?
17. How do you most need to grow as a witness for Christ? Do you need to pray more for the lost? Do you need to grow relationships with unbelievers? Do you need to more routinely transition conversations to spiritual topics?

COMMIT

18. What is your one specific commitment this week to be a witness for Christ?

PRAY

19. Pray for God's Spirit to give you a love for the lost and a boldness to share the Gospel.

NEXT STEPS

After you finish this study, each member of your group will prepare their personalized commitments for spiritual growth. Please use the *D-Group Personal Commitments* sheet to guide this process. After completing these four studies, you should have a pretty clear idea of how God is calling you to grow over time. Take note that these commitments are not meant to be new legalistic rules that promote guilt and frustration. Rather they are meant to create a clear pathway to spiritual development.

Remember, an idea is only an idea until you write it down; then it becomes a goal. But it doesn't become a priority until you share it with another person. After each person has prepared their personal commitments, take time to share them with your group. The idea is that you keep coming back to these once a month for a personal check-in to see if any progress is being made.

Once everyone has shared their personal commitments, you will then decide together on a resource to guide your spiritual development. Please refer to the "D-Group Resource Guide" for preferred books to read and discuss together. It is okay if your chosen resource doesn't perfectly match how each person most wants to grow. The important thing is that you together realize the benefit it will play in each of your lives.

Please decide each time you meet to continue following the **THREE-THIRDS MODEL**:

1. **LOOK BACK**: Here the emphasis is **accountability**. You will spend the first third of your time reviewing how you've done in accomplishing the commitments you made in your last meeting.

2. **LOOK UP:** Here the emphasis is *training*. You will spend the second third of your time seeking direction from God and His Word, often using a specific resource you've chosen for your D-Group to help you grow in a specific area.
3. **LOOK FORWARD:** Here the emphasis is on *application*. You will spend the last third of your time discussing and prayerfully planning how you will obey what you learned in the "Look Up" segment.

Fight to keep your Discipleship Group on track with this model for meeting! It can be tempting to make your group like a Bible Study by focusing most of your time on "looking up." But if you stay true to this model, it will pay dividends to your long-term spiritual growth!