

# Next Steps: The Commission

## Matthew 28:16-20

### FOR LIFE GROUP LEADERS

**The goal of this session is not comprehension. It's commitment.**

The sermon covered the theological ground. Your job is to get people past the nodding stage and into genuine accountability. The questions below move from observation to confession to action. Resist the temptation to fill silence with more content. When someone gives a vague answer, push gently: *"What does that actually look like for you this week?"*

Two things to watch for:

**Spiritualised escape routes.** People will say things like "I'm still growing" or "I want to make sure I'm doing it the right way." These are often sincere, but they can also be the exact excuses the sermon named. Don't let them land unchallenged.

**The one name.** The session should end with every person in the room having written down a name. Make sure yours is ready before you lead. You'll need to model this.

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### OPENING (Don't skip this)

Start with this. No preamble.

**"What's the biggest shift in how you've thought about discipleship over these four weeks?"**

Take two or three responses. Keep it moving. This isn't the main discussion.

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### SECTION 1: Stuck, Not Broken

The sermon drew a distinction between discipleship that has *failed* and discipleship that has *stalled*. One is a tragedy. The other is a choice.

**Q1. Be honest with the group: has your discipleship been primarily a private project? What has it looked like in practice?**

*Leader note: You're not looking for guilt here. You're looking for honesty. If the room is quiet, go first.*

**Q2. The sermon said: "Following Jesus was never designed to end with you. It was designed to travel through you." Where does that sit uncomfortably?**

*Leader note: Push past vague agreement. Ask someone: "What specifically would need to change for that to be true in your life?"*

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## **SECTION 2: What the Text Actually Says**

Three observations from Matthew 28 that the sermon surfaced. Pick the one your group needs most, or run through all three briefly.

**On the doubters (v.17):**

**Q3. Jesus commissioned the doubters alongside the worshippers. He didn't wait. What does that do to the reasons you've been giving yourself for not engaging someone with your faith?**

**On the grammar (v.19):**

**Q4. The only actual command in the Great Commission is "make disciples." Go, baptise, teach are the method, not additional commands.**

**Does reframing it as one thing rather than four make it feel more or less achievable? Why?**

*Leader note: This question has a wrong answer. If someone says "less achievable," explore why. The single command should simplify, not complicate. If it feels heavier, something else might be going on.*

**On the bookends (v.18 & 20):**

**Q5. His authority and his presence bracket the command. In practice, when you think about sharing your faith, which do you find yourself forgetting more: that he has authority, or that he is with you?**

**What difference would remembering it make?**

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## **SECTION 3: The One Ask**

This is the real application. Don't rush this, and don't let people get away with vague answers.

**Q6. The sermon collapsed the gap between evangelism and discipleship. If the first conversation you have with someone about Jesus is already discipleship, does that change how you feel about having it?**

**Q7. The ask was specific: one name, one prayer, one conversation. What is the actual obstacle for you? Not the principle of it, but the concrete, specific reason you haven't done it yet.**

*The prayer was as simple as: "Jesus, would you work in [name]'s life this week."*

*Leader note: Give the group space/time to think. Silence usually means someone is working up the courage to be honest. Wait for it. If no-one speaks, ask someone gently but directly...*

**Q8. The sermon named the excuses: "I'm not ready. I'm not equipped. I don't know enough." Which one is yours?**

**And given that Jesus sent doubters from a Galilean hillside without waiting for their confidence levels to improve, does that excuse actually hold up?**

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## **CLOSE: Make It Concrete**

*Don't end with a question. End with an action.*

*Ask everyone to take out their phone or a piece of paper.*

**"Write down one name. Someone not following Jesus, or not following Him closely. Don't share it unless you want to. Just write it."**

*Give thirty seconds of silence.*

*Then pray. Keep it short. Something like: "Jesus, the authority is yours. The presence is yours. We're bringing you one name each. Work in their life this week."*

If it fits your group, ask people to send each other that name before the week is out so you can pray for each other specifically.

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## **QUICK REFERENCE: The Three Reframes**

Worth printing or reading aloud if your discussion runs short:

- Disciple-making is not a gift for some. It is a command for all.
- Disciple-making is not addition. It is multiplication.
- Disciple-making is not finished when your faith is strong. It is finished when you've passed it on.