

Making More and Better Disciples of Jesus

Our mission: To lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, by creating environments that encourage and equip people to pursue intimacy with God, community with insiders and influence with outsiders.

Key Scriptures

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Ephesians 4:15-16 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Key Point: The greater the groaning, the greater the glory. The weaker your spirit, the stronger His support.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- If you had to use a body part to describe yourself (by your job, or skills or talents)

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- To have a good mission statement, it must be short enough to be remembered, but must also state the essence of the mission. In what ways is our mission statement similar to the Great Commission in Matt 18:18-20? In what ways is it different?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27. Paul uses the anatomy of the body to talk about what every member of the church looks like. What do you think his main point is here?
- What is Ephesians 4:15-16 saying? What observations and implications can you draw out of it? What is the result of believers using their gifts and abilities in the church?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- When you read Matt 28:18-20, does it sound more to you like a command or like an enablement? Why?
- If there is time left, you may want to spend time praying for the church in the Ukraine and in Russia. You may want to use the 11 prayer items included with these study questions.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- What is the next spiritual step you need to take? Baptism? Giving an offering back to God? Singing and Praising? Involving yourself in a ministry of the church? Serving someone? Reaching out to a person who is far from God?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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Prayer items offered by Send International https://send.org/story/hh_pray_for_ukraine

1. Ask God to redeem this situation by drawing many people to Himself. May Ukrainians discover that Jesus is the only true source of peace, safety, comfort, truth and freedom
2. For the opening of corridors both for evacuation and humanitarian aid around cities under attack in Ukraine. Many people in these cities are without heat and electricity.
3. For many churches that opened their doors to neighbors offering food and shelter.
4. For protection of many kids and parents who will spend another night in bomb shelters, metro stations or on the roads to safer places and all brave volunteers risking their lives to evacuate people.
5. For logistics of getting funds and humanitarian aid to churches and refugee camps so they continue to have food, medicine and other supplies.
6. For protection of lives but also church buildings that were built so sacrificially for years. May these churches be a beacon of light for those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior!
7. For many pastors leading their flocks at this critical time of decision and risk. They carry a heavy burden.
8. For many believing men who will have to bear arms against a professional army as the war continues. There is no other alternative for them, that we know about. Pray also for the many women who are fighting as well.
9. For the Lord to cause the opposing army to lose the will to fight, be afraid, be confused, or use other methods to stop the war.
10. For many volunteers who are setting up camps for refugees, so that they will have necessary funds, places for accommodation, and physical strength to serve.
11. For many believers to stay strong, continue trusting the Lord and not to give in to panic, fear and desperation.

An update from a person in Ukraine:

On the first day of the war, I despaired that no one believed us, no one would help us. But these feelings led me to a new realization - the weaker we are, the greater will be God's glory. Just as Gideon was once left with only 300 soldiers, so we felt the first days of this nightmare as if we stood armed with only our jugs.

We are amazed how that same God's hand has stirred the entire world to pray! They believed us and our cries for help ... I praise God!

Each of your prayers is like a nugget of gold, like a drop of rain, like another minute of life. We greatly appreciate it! We turn to the same God who humbled Nebuchadnezzar, who struck down 185,000 troops with one Angel, and who delivered the faithful from the fiery furnace!