

Week of Monday, October 26, 2025

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

3 John 5-8

5 Dear friend, you are acting faithfully in whatever you do for the brothers and sisters, especially when they are strangers. **6** They have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God, **7** since they set out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from pagans. **8** Therefore, we ought to support such people so that we can be coworkers with the truth.

HOPE Journaling

H – Highlight what stands out to you

O – Observe what it teaches

P – Practice this in your life

E – Express this in your prayers

Weekly Devotional

What keeps a missionary serving when the work is difficult, relationships develop slowly, and home feels far away? What motivates a believer to spend time each week serving struggling families or teaching children about Jesus? In 3 John, we find a purpose that connects them: serving "for the sake of the Name."

The name of Jesus was worth making known. People needed to hear about the Savior who died for sinners and rose again, offering forgiveness and eternal life to all who trust in Him. That good news gave these gospel workers a reason to go and gave believers like Gaius a reason to support them.

It is easy to think about missions primarily in terms of distant countries. Yet the need to know Jesus exists both across the world and across the street. Our neighbors need the same Savior as those who have never heard His name in another country.

That shared need helps us appreciate the different places where God's people serve. Some learn a new language and move overseas. Others help establish churches in communities throughout our nation. Still others serve locally, building relationships with families, meeting practical needs, and creating opportunities to share the gospel. Across these different settings, the purpose remains the same: helping people come to know and follow Jesus.

Gaius could not do all the work these traveling believers were doing, but he could welcome them, care for them, and help them continue. John describes that support as an opportunity to become coworkers with the truth. Their shared commitment to Jesus connected their different roles in the work.

We have that same opportunity through the missionaries and ministries our church supports. We can learn their names, remember their needs, encourage them, and give toward their work. With local ministries, we may also be able to show up in person, offer our time, and build relationships with the people being served.

Our upcoming **Big Give, our annual missions offering,** is one way we can support this work together. As we prepare, take time to pray about what God would have you give. Consider what He has entrusted to you and how you can give generously and willingly to help others make Jesus known. Behind the offering are people being served, gospel workers being strengthened, and opportunities for others to hear about Christ.

As we support others, we can also pay attention to the people God has placed in our own lives. A neighbor, coworker, or friend may need someone to listen, offer practical help, and speak about the hope found in Christ.

-Devotional written by Eric Foster

Read Also:
Matthew 28
3 John
Acts 1:6–11 — Near and far
Romans 10:9–17 — Why we send
Philippians 4:10–20 — Partners in the gospel
2 Corinthians 9:6–15 — Giving with willing hearts
Colossians 4:2–6 — Praying and participating

Group Discussion Questions

Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations. Who comes to mind when you think about people in your neighborhood, workplace, or school who need to know Jesus?

John calls those who support gospel workers "coworkers with the truth." How might seeing yourself as a coworker change the way you pray, give, or serve?

As you hear about our mission partners, which opportunities excite you most, and why? What would you like to learn more about?

What opportunities do we have to help people find and follow Jesus locally? What might hold us back, and what could help us take a first step?

Beyond financial support, what are some meaningful ways we could encourage our mission partners and help them feel connected to our church throughout the year?

As you pray about the Big Give, how does remembering Christ's generosity toward you shape your own generosity? What would it look like to give thoughtfully, willingly, and sacrificially?

What is one specific step you can take this week to support gospel work through prayer, giving, encouragement, or serving? How can this group help you follow through?