

Small Group Guide: The Great Commission

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts to His word and give you boldness to share the gospel.

Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Share a time when someone invited you to church or shared Jesus with you. How did that conversation impact your faith journey?

Key Scripture

Matthew 28:18-20 - "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

Key Takeaways

1. **The Great Commission is a command, not a suggestion** - It's the third most important commandment after loving God and loving our neighbor.
2. **Making disciples doesn't stop at baptism** - We're called to teach new believers to obey everything Jesus commanded.
3. **We all have a unique sphere of influence** - God places people in our lives that only we can reach.
4. **Obedience includes: Believe, Confess, Repent, Be Baptized, Live a New Life** - Salvation isn't just one moment but a journey of obedience.
5. **We don't go alone** - Jesus promises to be with us "to the very end of the age."

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message (15-20 minutes)

1. The sermon presented the Great Commission as the "third most important commandment." How does viewing it this way change your perspective on evangelism?
2. What stood out to you most from the Phil Robertson story? What made his approach to sharing the gospel effective?
3. The preacher mentioned that many people have been hurt by the church. How should this reality shape the way we share Jesus with others?

Personal Reflection (15-20 minutes)

4. On a scale of 1-10, how comfortable are you with sharing your faith? What makes it difficult or easy for you?
5. The sermon mentioned that we often focus inward (teaching within the church) rather than outward. Do you see this tendency in your own life? Why do you think this happens?
6. Read Romans 1:16 - "I am not ashamed of the gospel." Are there times when you've been ashamed or hesitant to share your faith? What causes that hesitation?

Going Deeper (15-20 minutes)

7. Review the five steps of obedience mentioned in the sermon:
 - **Believe** (Romans 10:9)
 - **Confess** (1 John 1:9)
 - **Repent** (Acts 2:38; 3:19)
 - **Be Baptized** (Romans 6:3-7; Acts 2:38)
 - **Live a New Life** (2 Corinthians 5:17)
8. Why is each step important? How do they work together rather than individually?
9. The sermon compared abandoning new Christians after baptism to giving a toddler car keys and money. What does effective discipleship look like in practical terms?
10. Read Hebrews 11:1, 6. How is biblical faith different from "blind faith"? How can we help others understand that Christianity is reasonable and logical?

Practical Application (15-20 minutes)

Individual Commitments

10. **Identify your sphere of influence:** Who are 3-5 people in your life who don't know Jesus? Write their names down and commit to praying for them this week.
11. **Prepare your story:** Can you share in 3-5 minutes how Jesus changed your life? Practice with the group or a partner.
12. **Start conversations:** The sermon emphasized asking questions and listening. What's one question you could ask someone this week to start a spiritual conversation?
 - Examples: "What do you think happens after we die?" or "Do you have any spiritual beliefs?"

Group Commitments

13. **Study together:** Would it be helpful to spend a few weeks learning how to share the gospel effectively? Consider working through the handout together or reading one of the recommended books on evangelism.
14. **Practice together:** Pair up and practice sharing the gospel using the handout from the sermon. Give each other feedback and encouragement.
15. **Accountability:** Choose one person to check in with this week about your evangelism efforts. Share what conversations you had and pray together.

Action Steps for This Week

Choose at least one:

- ☐ Memorize Matthew 28:18-20
- ☐ Have at least one spiritual conversation with someone who doesn't know Jesus
- ☐ Invite someone to church, a church event, or to this small group
- ☐ Study the verses on the handout and be prepared to explain them
- ☐ Read one chapter from a book on evangelism
- ☐ Pray daily for the people on your list who need Jesus
- ☐ Share your testimony with someone this week

Closing Activity (10 minutes)

Prayer Partners: Break into groups of 2-3. Share:

1. One person you want to share Jesus with
2. One fear or obstacle you face in evangelism
3. One way you want to grow in boldness

Pray specifically for each other's requests.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank you for the privilege of being your ambassadors. Forgive us where we've been silent or ashamed. Give us boldness like Peter at Pentecost. Help us to see the people around us the way You see them—lost and in need of a Savior. Prepare our hearts and our words. We trust that You will be with us as we go. In Jesus' name, Amen.

For Next Week

- Come prepared to share one conversation you had about Jesus
- Bring questions or challenges you encountered
- Consider: What's one way our group could serve our community and share Jesus together?

Additional Resources

- Keep the gospel presentation handout in your Bible
- Ask your group leader or pastor for book recommendations on evangelism
- Consider attending the church's ice cream social and other fellowship events as opportunities to build relationships