



## Scotts Hill Baptist Church

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS • A COMMUNICATED MESSAGE • MATTHEW 28:18-20 •

### MAIN POINT

It is not enough to tell someone. You also have to ask someone.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Over the last several weeks we've studied the question: What is the gospel?  
What was most helpful as you identified the basic gospel message?**

**Can everyone share a one-minute version of the gospel in your own words?  
(Encourage each person to do this, even if it sounds redundant, so that  
everyone can practice speaking the gospel message to other people.)**

**Did anyone have an opportunity to share the gospel this past week? If so,  
what happened?**

Over the past three, we've looked at what the gospel is and why, when, where, and how to share the gospel. Today, we'll wrap it all up as Pastor Phil shares the reality that the gospel is a communicated message.

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

### | REVIEW

**How would you describe the way you felt about evangelism before this  
study, compared to the way you feel now?**

**How have you been challenged or encouraged during this series? What has been most helpful?**

**What is your biggest fear in sharing the gospel? If willing to share the gospel, why are we often afraid to ask for a decision?**

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ MATTHEW 28:18-20.

**Has your understanding of the Great Commission changed during this sermon? If so, describe how.**

Jesus was very specific in the Great Commission. He said to make disciples, teaching them to live out everything He commanded and baptizing them. These are essential parts of the community of God's people. Remember, in the Great Commission Jesus didn't just give us this amazing assignment of eternal significance, He promised to be with us as we go. His Spirit equips, empowers, and enables our ability to share the gospel as well as other people's responses to this good news. Evangelism isn't as complicated as we make it, and neither is discipleship. Discipleship isn't just a class; it's learning through life together.

**Who has been the greatest example to you of a Christian life?**

**What in your life would change if you kept in mind the fact that people are looking to you as an example?**

**Have you brought someone to church? What was your experience?**

**How can you be helpful to your church instead of critical?**

Remember, you may not be a Paul, but we can all be a Barnabas who comes alongside someone to encourage a new Christian.

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Name some ways you've asked someone to do something other than make a personal decision for faith in Jesus (i.e. come to church or small group, read a Christian book, attend a Christian event, listen to Christian music, etc.).**

**What is your fear or concern with asking people to make a decision for Christ?**

**How can you stay prepared to seize the moment and share the gospel?**

**What is your primary takeaway from this series? What steps is God calling you to take to move toward a deeper practice of evangelism as a result of this new insight?**

## PRAYER

Thank God for loving you so much that He sacrificed His own Son so that you might have everlasting life. Ask Him to remind you every day of the good news of the gospel, to ready your heart and mind to share it, and to give you opportunities to do so.

## COMMENTARY

| MATTHEW 28:18-20

28:18. Matthew noted that Jesus came near or approached. Here was no case of mistaken identity. The disciples could look Jesus in the eye and see that this One was the same Person whom Pilate had arrested. They could hear the voice clearly and know it was the voice they had listened to for several years. Jesus' claim made the need for decision even clearer: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." The kingdom Jesus talked about (4:17) had been established. The King had received authority to reign. This kingdom far exceeded the size of the Roman Empire. Only God could make such a declaration. Only One who ruled in heaven as well as on earth could claim such power.

28:19-20. On the basis of His authority, Jesus issued the Great Commission. Disciples had to accept the authority if they were to accept the commission. The commission is intricately formulated in the Greek. Stated somewhat literally as translated from the Greek language, the Great Commission reads as follows: "Therefore, having gone, disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep (or to persistently obey) as much as I commanded you. And look here, I am with you all the days, until the completion (or perfection) of the age." The introductory "therefore" connects the Great Commission to Jesus' authority established in verse 18. The phrase "having gone" assumes obedience to the Commission. This phrase is not so much a call to go as it is a command to do certain things on the way. Disciples who recognize Christ's authority have one major task. The only imperative verb form in these verses formulates that task. Disciples under Christ's authority disciple the nations. That is, they share the gospel and help believers grow in Christ. Building the church by discipling the nations expands the disciple's journey. It sends them to the nations. Here is the

universal nature of the gospel made explicit and clear. Disciples under Christ's authority must leave their comfort zones and the people with whom they feel at home. They must expand their horizons to incorporate every nation of people on earth. The church must devise plans and strategies to use the talents, gifts, energies, and resources of every one of its members. Every member must be on the move, discipling the nations.

In addition to going, discipling involves two other actions. The first is baptizing, which is to occur only after a person has acknowledged Jesus, the risen Savior, as his or her personal Savior. Baptism incorporates the new believer officially into the church. Baptism is also one means of making a public confession of faith. Baptism pictures or symbolizes what Jesus did and what the new Christian is doing. Jesus died for our sins. He was buried in the tomb. God raised Him from death to life. Baptism also pictures the believer's having died to sin and being raised to a new life in Christ, a life that is eternal through the ages.

The second action in discipling is teaching. This instruction reaches back to the earthly ministry of Jesus. It takes every parable, every sermon, every word Jesus said and teaches them to the church. It seeks to develop Christlike individuals. The teaching ministry begins with the New Testament accounts of the life and death of Jesus Christ. It expands to the rest of the New Testament and then incorporates the Old Testament as the foundation of who God is and what God planned long before He sent Jesus to fulfill Old Testament prophecies. This entire Word of God is the curriculum each disciple is charged to teach to new believers.