

Great Commission Worship

By Scott Aniol

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, participants will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

Read John 4:23–24. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: What kind of disciples is God seeking according to this passage?

Assignment Two

Study Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15; and Matthew 5:14–16. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: What should be our relationship to the world?

Assignment Three

Read John 14:18–24. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: How does Jesus describe communion with Him in these verses? What does this reveal about the relationship between discipleship and worship?

Scripture to Memorize

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit—by the end of this session, disciples will recognize how their lives as worshipers of Jesus Christ can help them accomplish their mission of making disciples.

Scott Aniol is assistant professor of Worship and Music Ministry at Southwestern Seminary. He is the author of several books, including *Worship in Song: A Biblical Approach to Music and Worship*, *Sound Worship: A Guide to Making Musical Choices in a Noisy World*, and *By the Waters of Babylon: Worship in a Post-Christian Culture*. He speaks around the country on the subjects of culture and worship and blogs at www.religiousaffections.org.

It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

Imagine that a friend tells you he wants to introduce you to the president of the United States. You quickly agree and ask your friend, "How do you know the president?" "Oh, I don't know the president," your friend replies. "I just want to introduce you to the president."

Is your knowledge of someone necessary for you to introduce that person to others? How does this relate to your desire to introduce Christ to others?

What Is Our Mission?

Read Matthew 28:16–20 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 16. Went. Jesus' disciples set aside dedicated time to worship Christ.

Verse 17. worshiped. Just before Jesus gave His disciples their mission, they worshiped Him. Worship fuels mission.

Verse 18. authority. Jesus has authority over His followers to send them on a mission. Sending implies authority.

Verse 19. make disciples. This is the primary commission Christ has given to us. Making disciples begins with the faithful proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people.
baptizing them. The first step of discipleship is for new Christians to be baptized as a sign of their profession of faith in Christ.

Verse 20. teaching them. Our commission does not end with evangelism. Making disciples necessarily involves the long-term teaching of Christians to observe all of Christ's commands. **I am with you.** Jesus promised His continual presence with His disciples, which is the fuel of both true worship and disciple making.

Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** may now report on the kind of disciples God is seeking.

On Your Own

In the space below, list the various ministries of your church. Use this list for the discussion questions below.

Discussion Questions

How do the various ministries of your church help accomplish the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19–20? How does worship in particular contribute to the Great Commission?

How Does Worship Accomplish Our Mission?

Read John 17:15–21 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 15. I . . . You. This is part of Jesus' "high priestly prayer" to His Father on behalf of His disciples. He prayed this on the eve of His crucifixion. **them.** Jesus is praying for all who follow Him. **world.** This word refers to this present age that is ruled by Satan and hostile to Christ and His followers. Christ does not want His disciples taken out of the world, for this is where they accomplish the mission He has given them. **evil one.** Rather, Jesus prays that the Father will protect them from the attacks of Satan.

Verse 16. not of. Christ's followers are in the world, but they are not part of the value system that hates God.

Verse 17. Sanctify. This term means "set apart." Christians are to be set apart from the world's values. **truth . . . word.** Christ asks His Father to set His people apart from the world through the truth of His Word.

Verse 18. As You sent . . . so I have sent. Jesus makes a comparison here between the Father's act of sending His Son and Jesus' act of sending His disciples. **sent.** Sending implies authority. He who is sent must obey the commission of the sender. Just as Jesus obeyed the commission given to Him by His Father, so we must obey the commission given to us by Christ. **into the world.** Our mission is in the world, where we seek to make disciples of sinners through evangelism, baptism and teaching.

Verse 20. Also for those who believe. Jesus is praying also for those who will come to faith in Him through the witness of His disciples. **their word.** Making disciples necessarily begins with the faithful proclamation of God's Word to unbelievers.

Assignment Two Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Two** may now report on what our relationship to the world should be.

Discussion Questions

How should Jesus' prayer concerning our relationship to the world impact our worship? What will worship that is "set apart" by truth look like? What will worship by Christians who have been sent into the world to make disciples look like? Is there a tension between these two realities?

Studying the Passage

Verse 21. all be one. Belief in Jesus through gospel proclamation unifies new believers into Christ's spiritual body. This joining together happens spiritually at the moment of conversion and is symbolized through water baptism and visible church membership (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Just as. Fellowship in churches reflects the communion shared among the persons of the Trinity. **the world may believe.** This unity among believers is a powerful testimony to unbelievers.

Verse 22. glory. Unity in the church comes as a result of the power of Christ.

Verse 23. I in them and You in Me. This describes the communion we share with God through Christ. It is the essence of worship. **the world may know.** This God-focused worship leads unbelievers to recognize the love of Christ.

Assignment Three Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Three** may now report on how Jesus describes communion with Him in John 14:18–24.

On Your Own

In the space below, list ways Christians can demonstrate union with Christ and union with other believers. When everyone is finished, the group can share their responses.

Discussion Question

Based on this study, how can being a worshiper help to accomplish our mission of making disciples? In what ways should this affect your everyday life as a worshiper of Jesus Christ? In what ways should this affect your corporate worship?

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart (the real you) for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something in your life for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes

Prayer

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally, and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

At Home: Nail It Down

Christ gave His disciples—and all Christians by extension—a mission: make disciples (see Matthew 28:19). According to Christ, disciple making involves evangelism, baptism and long-term teaching. Everything a church does should fit the goal of this mission, including worship.

We can recognize how worship accomplishes our mission by understanding what worship really is. Worship is loving Christ and obeying His commandments (see John 14:18–24). It is union with the Trinity and with other believers (see John 17:21, 23). In this sense, being a worshiper *is* being a disciple. Pursuing obedience to God and love for other Christians, combined with a faithful gospel witness, helps draw unbelievers to faith in Christ (see John 17:21).

We live in a world that is hostile to Christ and to His followers (see John 17:14). Our relationship with Him separates us from the world (see John 17:17). But this separation from the world by union with Christ—and our lives as worshipers who are characterized by love and obedience—shines as a light to the world. That light will cause unbelievers to glorify God (see Matthew 5:14–16).

Follow up Question

How will your life as a worshiper of Christ help you accomplish the mission He gave you?

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.