

MISSION FLOWS FROM COMMUNION (IMPACT 20M)

MATTHEW 28:18–20

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 29:18–20 (English Standard Version)

REACH ONE

Getting to know people and helping people get to know Jesus.

As we continue growing in the habit of intentionally going out of our way to see people, carve out some discussion time to let group members share how they took a step toward others during the past week. It does not matter if it was small (e.g., learning their barista’s name) or large (e.g., getting to share Jesus with someone), celebrating wins like these can go a long way into making this part of our daily rhythms and lifestyle.

SERMON RECAP

Every Christian has a global mission. The very last words Jesus spoke in the Great Commission are key, not just to our impacting 20 million people with the gospel – they are key to experiencing true life in Him. Christian, we are on a global mission. Do you want to *live*?

- Life is found in intimate communion with the triune God.
- Life is found in intimate communion with the triune God as we participate with Him on mission in the world.

Mission is not something Jesus is telling us to do *for* Him. Mission is something Jesus is inviting us to do *with* Him! The LORD God is inviting us to experience Life in and with the triune Godhead. “*Try to explain it, and you’ll lose your mind; but try to deny it, and you’ll lose your soul.*” (Source unknown)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Matthew 28 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.

- a. When did the events of Matthew 28 take place? (Matthew 28:1, 5-6)
 - b. What words of encouragement did the angel offer the early witnesses of the LORD's resurrection? (Matthew 28:5)
 - c. What did the angel tell these witnesses to do? (Matthew 28:7)
 - d. How did they respond? (Matthew 28:8)
 - e. When and how did they encounter Jesus along the way? (Matthew 28:9)
 - f. What words of encouragement did Jesus offer them? (Matthew 28:10)
 - g. What was the effect of their obedience on the LORD's disciples? (Matthew 28:16-17)
 - h. What did Jesus tell these disciples to do? (Matthew 28:19-20)
 - i. What was the basis of His command? (Matthew 28:18; cf. John 17:1-3)
 - j. What was the promise in His command? (Matthew 28:20b)
2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. What might be the significance of the fact that Jesus issued the Great Commission *after* His death and resurrection? (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:26, 54-58; Colossians 1:18-20; Hebrews 2:10, 14-15)
2. What was the nature of the response of the earliest witnesses to the resurrection (Matthew 28:8-9)? What might their response imply about what they saw and knew of Jesus along the way?
3. What other responses to the resurrection and revelation of Jesus are observable in Matthew 28? (Matthew 28:11-15, 17)
4. To which of the disciples in verses 16-17 did the LORD issue His command and promise in verses 18-20?
5. What stands out to you most as you read and consider today's passage? What other questions about it do you have?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Read Proverbs 23:1-5. What life ambitions are you pursuing? What are you living for? In other words, what are you currently fishing for and gathering into your nets?
 - a. Are your aims primarily motivated by underlying fears? If so, fear of what (or who)?
 - or -
 - b. Are your aims primarily led by the Spirit? Are they humbling you and building a living, breathing, steadfast faith in the LORD God, in you and in others around you?

Read and consider praying, *with a surrendered heart*, the words of Psalm 119:36-38 and Philippians 3:7-10.

2. The LORD God loves you!

- a. Who do you say the LORD is? When you come before Him in prayer or worship, how do you view Him? How do you believe He views you?
- b. The LORD God who invites us into His mission in Matthew 28:18–20 also spoke the words of Isaiah 40:21–31; Lamentations 3:22–23; Zephaniah 3:17; Isaiah 62:5; John 15:9, 17:22–23; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; Ephesians 1:13–14; and Colossians 3:4. What do these words tell you about the LORD’s view of you and His plans for you?
- c. Read John 10:10, 11:25, 14:6, 17:3, and 20:31. The LORD God created you not for casual, cultural Christianity, but to live on a higher plane of communion with Himself, in Christ, by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Do you know what it means to live in intimate communion with the triune LORD – in community with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – because you are walking with Jesus? Are you experiencing the inexplicable joy of His abundant life?
 - i. If you are not living on the higher plane of communion with the LORD God, what must you ‘lose,’ or repent of, in order to surrender to His love and find yourself in Him (Matthew 10:39, 16:25)?
 - ii. If you are already living on the higher plane of communion with the LORD, how will you (a) guard that sacred space from the influence of the world (2 Timothy 1:12–14), and (b) continue to grow in your intimacy with Him (Philippians 3:12–16; 2 Peter 3:18)?

3. The LORD God loves the nations!

- a. Read Revelation 5:9, 7:9–12, 22:1–5 and 2 Peter 3:9. The LORD God desires to be known and is worthy of worship. Yet today, there are over 3.2 billion unreached people in the world. The LORD invites His people to participate in His unfailing mission to reach them (Matthew 28:18–20; cf. Isaiah 14:27; Job 42:2). Life is found in intimate communion with the triune God as we participate with Him in His mission in the world.
- b. If you call McLean Bible Church your church home, we invite you to pray the following:
 - i. *“God, today I want to experience Life in communion with You through faith in Jesus.”*
 - ii. *“God, whatever You want me to give, wherever You want me to go, and however You want me to participate with You on mission in the world, my answer is, “Yes.””*
- c. For more information about upcoming opportunities at McLean Bible Church—
 - i. Read and learn about our vision as a church at mcleanbible.org/vision.

ii. Reach out to globaloutreach@mcleanbible.org if-

- You are interested in learning about mission trip opportunities in general; or
- You may have a job opportunity coming up in the near future in another part of the world.