

THE CHURCH MAKES DISCIPLES

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM PART OF A FAMILY
SERIES: GOD IS FATHER - I AM PART OF THE FAMILY

BIG TRUTH: THE CHURCH MAKES DISCIPLES

Ephesians 4:11-17; Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 10:25

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 28:19-20

“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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

BIG IDEAS

- We make disciples in all of life.
- We make disciples through sharing and teaching.
- We make disciples under Christ’s authority and by His presence.

BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 28:16-20; ACTS 2:46; 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-12

UNITE - I AM PART OF A FAMILY

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- The church is a family.
- The church is given by God.
- The church exists for God.



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the unique ways God has gifted them and their church.
- Appreciation for the elders and leaders that God has gifted their church.



Every student should strive to...

- Prioritize gathering to worship each week with their church family.
- Learn more about membership in their local church.
- Do something to intentionally serve someone in their church family each week



Every student should want...

- To devote themselves to pursue holiness with their church family.
- To have their lives be marked by love for the church.
- To live in a way that is sacrificial and generous for the good of others and the glory of God

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

THE CHURCH MAKES DISCIPLES

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 28:19-20

“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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The church is commanded to go.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

- When Jesus gives the command to go and make disciples, He establishes the way in which His people should live their lives. The Christian life is not meant to be lived in isolation or just merely in community. It's meant to be an intentional seeking of others just as Jesus did during His earthly ministry.
- The church, or body of Christ is commanded to go into the world. They first go into their community to reach others with the good news of the gospel. They are called to go beyond their community into the world. As believers, we must answer the call to go by going first to our neighbors, our coworkers, and then to other parts of the country and world.

Going involves sharing the gospel.

“...baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

- Before a person can learn how to follow Christ, he or she must first follow Him. The first part to answering the command to go into the world is to share the Gospel with unbelievers. A follower of Christ must first evangelize in order to truly make disciples.
- The church is commanded to go out into the world to share the gospel with others. The church is called to proclaim Christ in all of the world. By doing this, the church will make disciples of Christ.

The church's command involves teaching others.

“...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Part of making disciples is teaching them about Jesus. The church does this when they teach and preach the Word of God. The church answers this call when it trains leaders and teaches believers how to follow and obey God.
- This command also involves going into other places and teaching believers how to follow and obey God. Making disciples involves learning ourselves and then teaching others what we've learned and how to become learners themselves.

BIG IDEA #1: WE MAKE DISCIPLES IN ALL OF LIFE.¹**[THIS]**

A disciple is a life-long learner who teaches others what he or she has learned. A disciple of Jesus is a person who spends their lives learning how to be like Christ and then teaches others how to be like Christ. Every person who believes in Jesus is His disciple. Every believer is a life-long learner and should live a life that reveals a heart that is pursuing and longing to know and be like Jesus. We become life-long learners by devoting ourselves to knowing God through His Word and by living life in community with other believers. As we grow in our knowledge and understanding of Christ, we grow in our Christlikeness. As we grow in our Christlikeness, we will tell others about Jesus and how to obey His Word. This is part of the Christian's life. We learn about Christ by studying His Word and praying daily. When we cultivate this relationship with Christ, we will become life-long learners.

[THEREFORE]**What are some things you are doing to be a life-long learner?**

We must live disciplined lives in order to be life-long learners. When we determine to learn God's Word, we will learn more and more about Him as Ezra 7:10 shows us. To be a life-long learner, we have to purpose and resolve to learn and grow in God's Word. 2 Timothy 2:15 also shows us that part of being a follower of Christ is being a student of God's Word.

What are some things that distract you from being a life-long learner?

Often, we get distracted by the things of this life. We focus on our earthly lives instead of pursuing the kingdom of God. 1 John 2:15-17 warns us of the danger of loving the things of the world too much. When we place a higher value on living our best life now, we will not be a life-long learner of Christ's. Matthew 6:24 also teaches that we cannot be mastered by two things. This means we will either whole-heartedly serve Christ or we will serve something else.

[THIS]

In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus instructs His disciples to go into the world to make disciples. A disciple of Jesus will not only grow himself or herself, but he or she will also teach others. Part of making disciples is having a love for others and a desire to see other Christians grow in their relationship with Christ. In order to truly be a disciple of Christ, we must make disciples. We must share what we have learned with others and we must intentionally invest our lives in helping others know Christ. The Christian life is lived in community for this very reason. We live as the body of Christ in order to help one another grow in our knowledge and understanding. As the church, we work together to make disciples by teaching others God's Word and how to follow Him. We hold one another accountable and encourage one another.

[THEREFORE]**What opportunities do you have, even as a teenager, to teach God's Word to others?**

As we grow in our knowledge of the Bible, we will be able to use the wisdom found in God's Word to help others. We can share this knowledge and wisdom with others in whatever groups we are involved in at our church and in our daily lives. When we participate in the groups that our church establishes for discipleship, we are part of the body making disciples.

1. 2 Timothy 2:1-2: God's people are to learn themselves and then teach others what they have learned.

BIG IDEA #2: WE MAKE DISCIPLES THROUGH SHARING AND TEACHING.²**[THIS]**

The church makes disciples by living life together. Individual believers make disciples by sharing their lives with others. Acts 2:46 shows us how the early church lived life together and shared in their time and resources. The early church lived connected to one another. When they had needs, they were aware and sought to use their own resources to meet those needs. Because they lived so connected, they were able to share in their daily activities. As believers today, we should and can live life together. We are one body and connected by one Spirit. This enables us to share our spiritual journeys with one another. This means we are aware when a fellow believer has a need, whether it is physical, emotional, or spiritual, and we can meet that need. Sharing our lives with one another also enables us to reach lost people. As we live authentic lives and strive to reach our friends and neighbors, we will evangelize the lost and ultimately make disciples.

[THEREFORE]**What are some obstacles or struggles that keep us from sharing our lives with others?**

Often, our pride stands in the way of our living life with others. We fear being upstaged or outperformed. We want to hide our sin struggles or failures. Proverbs 29:23 and Romans 12:16 remind us of the power pride can have over us. Philippians 2:3 encourages us to reject our pride and rivalry and instead to live with one another in harmony and peace.

What does it look like to practically live life together?

Acts 2:42-47 shows us a picture of what it looked like for the early disciples to live life together. For us, it means spending intentional time together and sharing our daily lives with other believers. By doing this, we grow together.

[THIS]

As we live our lives together, we share our own spiritual journey. This means that as we grow, we share with others what we are learning. Discipleship is more than daily life and activities. It is gathering around the Word of God with the intent of growing together by studying God's Word. We make disciples by teaching God's Word. The church does this by corporately gathering for worship. During worship, the church grows spiritually as the pastor preaches and teaches the Word of God. The church does this individually by seeking believers who are spiritually younger than them to share God's truth with them. In order to successfully make disciples, we must teach God's Word because it is the way that we know who God is and how He works in the world. Without teaching the Word of God, we will not really make disciples of Christ, but disciples more like ourselves.

[THEREFORE]**How has your personal walk with Jesus been impacted by the teaching of the Word of God?**

The Word of God transforms lives. It is the way in which we become more Christlike. Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17 show us the power of God's Word and the way in which God uses it to sanctify us. James 1:22 shows us that we must hear His Word and do His Word. When we do both, we will grow and when we encourage others to do this, they will grow.

2. Acts 2:46: Being a disciple of Christ means sharing life with other believers and teaching others.

BIG IDEA #3: WE MAKE DISCIPLES UNDER CHRIST'S AUTHORITY AND BY HIS PRESENCE.³**[THIS]**

Sometimes discipling someone can seem daunting or overwhelming. Matthew 28:16-20 shows us that our disciple-making is done in Christ's power and under His authority. This means we are not operating in our own power, but in the power of the Holy Spirit. Because we have the Holy Spirit, we have the power of God inside of us. We can intentionally and strategically help others grow spiritually in Christ's power. We have His authority because we have His Word and His Word is truth. It is His salvation that we proclaim to people and His Word that we teach, not ours. It is under His authority that we make disciples because He has commanded His people to do so and He empowers each of His followers to do His will. We speak boldly in the name of Christ because we can rest and trust in Him completely.

[THEREFORE]**How does knowing we have Christ's authority help you live more boldly?**

Our boldness comes from knowing that God is at work in us and through us. Ephesians 3:12 and Hebrews 13:6 show us that when we walk in the Spirit and rest under Christ's authority, we can live boldly for Him. This means we can make disciples boldly because we are doing it in Christ's authority and not in our own. We are teaching His truth and not our own. This brings confidence to us as we seek to share Him with others.

How is it different to speak truth in our power rather than in God's power?

When we speak in our power, we speak only what we know. When we speak and teach under the authority of Christ, the Holy Spirit is at work. As we seek to make disciples, we should submit our own hearts to the leading of the Spirit and teach others under Christ's authority as Matthew 28:16-20 teaches us. We are guided by His Word and not by our own ideas and thoughts.

[THIS]

When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He made a promise. He promised to always be with His disciples. Wherever they went, whatever they did in His name, He promised to be there. Believers today have this very same promise. We all have the Holy Spirit inside of us. We are never alone or without God. This means as we make disciples, we have the presence of God with us. Whatever we do, we do with the presence of God. He is with us always and works in us to guide us and help us live for Him. As we are sharing our lives with others and seeking to tell others about the gospel, we can trust that Christ is with us. We can trust that the Holy Spirit is at work drawing His people to Himself as we first share the gospel and second encourage new believers to grow in their Christlikeness. We do not have to worry about changing people; we can trust that Christ is near and at work. We must only be faithful to fulfill the command that Jesus has given us to go and make disciples.

[THEREFORE]**How does knowing that you have the presence of Christ with you always help you as you seek to make disciples?**

Galatians 2:20 reminds us that we are crucified with Christ and our lives are lived under His power and authority. Because of this, we are able to make disciples. John 15:5 reminds us that for those who abide in Christ and His presence, they bear much fruit. Bearing fruit means we will make disciples. We will teach others what we have learned and we will help others grow in their Christlikeness.

3. Matthew 28:20: Believers have the authority of Christ to reach lost people with the Gospel.