



Our Faith Isn't Finished Until It's Changed the World

Week of Feb 21, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Series Recap

Do you believe yet? If you do, GREAT! But the journey doesn't end here. In fact, it's only just begun. Faith never was the end goal. Faith is a journey, and every single person who believes has been called to walk that journey. Along the road in this journey we will meet many people, and it is our job to ask them to come along for the ride. We were never meant to go this alone, and God specifically told us to go out and invite others on our journey. So, let's get going...

Message

Read Matthew 28:18-20

If we're saved, we're sent to save. Time and time again God calls us off the sidelines and into the thick of the struggle. He knows that we will never grow if we're just watching. Jesus never led his disciples or followers into a classroom. He met people out in the world and then asked them to follow him. Then he would teach them how to do the same for others. God did not leave us with an impossible task. He's given us everything we need to accomplish our mission. He also didn't tell us it would be easy. There is a war waging, and he calls *us* to be on the frontline. The good news is it's a war that we can, and will, win!

Pray

We believe that we can become a congregation of 5,000 growing disciples, but we also realize that it's going to require us to get up and follow you daily. Give us the strength and courage to do what it takes to reach our community.

Getting Started

- Share something you've seen recently that has had a large impact in the world. Why do you think this impact was possible? Or, why were people so affected by it?
- When was the last time you shared Jesus with someone?

Listening Deeply

1. Are there any areas of your life where you have been "sitting on the sidelines"?
2. Why has it been so hard for you to break out of the habit of passiveness in this area?
3. What are a few ways for you to get past what's holding you back so that you can start following a new course on this issue?
4. Read Matthew 16:16. How does this verse give you encouragement?
5. What can the group do as a whole to help each other stay accountable to our call to share Jesus?
6. Read Matthew 28:18. Explain how this verse can give you the confidence you need to share the love of Jesus with the people you know.
7. How do you think you can have a bigger impact in your neighborhood, at work, or wherever you spend a good portion of your time? Also share some ideas of how the group could go out into the community to share the love and hope of Jesus.

Living Wide in Jesus

Remember, Jesus never took people into a classroom. He went out on the road and found broken people and offered them healing, and then he asked those people to go out and tell their story. Jesus didn't heal people who weren't sick. He didn't hang out with all the "religious" people. He went out and ate with those who were hated and looked down on. He went out and sat and ministered to the poor and needy. He gave hope to those who had none. If we want to become a church of over 5,000 growing disciples, we cannot stay in our comfort zones. We MUST follow in our father's footsteps. We MUST be like Jesus!

- Remember how very good (and strong) our Good News is.
- Live empathy; show compassion—remember the hell of living lost without Jesus.
- BE the living conversation of God—let Jesus send you to extend his offer of life!