

Gospel of Matthew - The claim, Command and Comfort of Jesus

Matthew 28:16-20

Icebreaker: How did you practice BLESS this week?

Discussion: For group discussion to be fruitful and engaging for everyone in your group, make sure that your discussion groups are not larger than 4 people. If possible, break up into groups of 2 or 3.

Larger Group: (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone
- Introduce the direction for the evening.
 - Read Matthew 18:16-20 highlight the following
 - The starting place of this conversation is Jesus' claim that he has ALL authority in heaven and earth!
 - Our goal is to obey his command to live sent: go and make, mark and mature people into disciples of Jesus.
 - Our comfort is that he will be with us wherever we go and make disciples!
- Prepare to break into smaller groups

Smaller Groups (20-25 minutes) Give the following instructions and break into small groups (2-3 people).

God's authority only works when you know you have it and use it. Jesus claims to have all authority.

- How can Jesus make that claim?
- What are some ways that Jesus used his authority?
- What does Jesus tell us to do based on his authority?
- Give an example of when you knew you were under God's authority and used it. If you didn't use it, what kept you from using it?

We live under Jesus' authority by being disciples. Jesus has all authority and commands us to go and make disciples.

- Have you gotten under the authority of Jesus?
 - How do you know that you have?
 - How has being under His authority changed your life?
- What are some ways that you have been discipled?
- Where are you in the discipleship process?
 - I need to surrender to Jesus
 - I need to be baptized
 - I need to be matured

Have someone read John 20:19. The miracle isn't that Jesus entered a locked room. The miracle is that he got his disciples out!

- What keeps you from going out and making disciples?

- What do you believe that you need to get started on making disciples?
 - Where do you sense God moving you to go and make disciples?
 - How can we help each other to live “sent?”
 - Who in your life can we begin to pray for that they will become a disciple?
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Larger Group:

Return to larger group to give summary of your discussion in smaller groups (5-10 minutes)

How does acknowledging your limitations, vulnerabilities and weaknesses help you communicate the gospel to your friends and family?

Allow time to pray for the lost, end with B.L.E.S.S. (10-15 minutes)

Where are group members in the B.L.E.S.S. process? Model for them how to answer briefly, for example:

“I’m praying for _____”.

“I have been having good conversations with _____”. “I’m having lunch with _____ on _____ (day of the week).”

Closing prayer - (2-5-minutes)