



Dgroup Discussion Guide for September 9, 2018
Live God's Purpose, Go Beyond

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying , "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION

The central command in the Great Commission is to "Make Disciples". As salt and light of the world, we are to make an impact with the people where we are now and make disciples of them. If we have unbelieving family members or relatives, they are our mission field. We are to reach out and disciple them.

However, it does not end with just making disciples where we are, we need to go beyond. If we do not, then we are not fulfilling the command of Jesus to make disciples of all nations. It is important for us to look beyond what we are doing today and see how else God can use us to make an impact with the rest of the world.

From the very start, Jesus' plan is to send out His disciples to fulfill the Great Commission. Jesus promised His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, receiving the Holy Spirit became a turning point in their lives.

EMPOWERED TO WITNESS

The power of the Holy Spirit transformed the fearful Peter to proclaim the Gospel in front of thousands of people.

What can overcome our fear is the power of the Holy Spirit. We, believers of Jesus Christ, have access to that power. The Holy Spirit has transformed the very scared, very timid, and very fearful disciples to eventually lay down their lives for Jesus and to speak up boldly for Him. The Holy Spirit has been given to us specifically to empower us to witness about our faith in Jesus.

WITNESSING BEYOND

When we received the power of the Holy Spirit who has come upon us, we became witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

We are commanded to be witnesses both to where we are right now and beyond. This means that as we witness to the people around us, we are also to go and make disciples throughout the country and outside the country to bring the gospel to the world. How will they believe the gospel if they will not hear it? (Hebrews 10:10-15). Ultimately, we are accountable to the lives of the lost.

The beginning of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that happened during the first gospel preaching of the disciples was cross-cultural, not only to the Jews in Jerusalem but to the whole world. (Acts 2:5-6). God's intention from the very beginning was that the church was going to impact the world.

The disciples of Jesus at first did not go outside Jerusalem to spread the gospel but they got stuck in their homeland. They stayed where they were for a number of years until God brought persecution in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1-4). As if God were saying that if they would not go out to be witnesses of all nations, then He Himself will make a way for them to go beyond where they were. Thereafter, they went outside of Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, where God commanded them to go from the beginning.

Do we want God to bring persecution upon us before we do what He has called us to do? We would eventually obey anyway, so let us do it now and not wait until we are pushed to do it.

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

The Holy Spirit has already empowered us to go and make disciples. To put them into action, we must practice Intentional Discipleship.

1. Discipleship must have true accountability of our growing obedience to all that God has commanded us. If there is no true accountability, then no true transformation toward Christlikeness can happen, which is the ultimate goal of discipleship. It all begins with teaching disciples to obey all that Jesus commanded us to do which must be modeled by the discipler as well.
2. Discipleship must lead to experiencing God's manifest presence and power for the discipler. God promised His disciples that He will be with them always. This is the ultimate benefit of discipleship - the presence of God all the time. Discipleship is not hard, it is impossible, that is why God has given us the power to obey when we received the Holy Spirit.

Living out God's purpose to go beyond means God is calling us to something that is far greater than we can even imagine happen in our lifetime. We, as the church, have the privilege of being involved in seeing thousands, and even millions of people from all around the world come to faith in Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How are you obeying God's command to "Go and Make Disciples"? What is stopping you from obeying?
2. Have you tried sharing the gospel outside your comfort zone? How was the experience? What did you learn? How can you do better?
3. In what ways can you apply Intentional Discipleship in your home? In your dgroup? In other areas of your life?