

# FOLLOW CURRICULUM

## LESSON FIVE

### Obeying the great commission daily

#### INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

*Each person to read a paragraph*

Today we're going to discuss the 5<sup>th</sup> mark of a follower of Jesus. A follower of Jesus obeys the great commission daily. Jesus' last command to his disciples is found in Matthew 28:18-20 and has been traditionally known as "The Great Commission". Its called a CO-mission because it's a mission for ALL of us to do together.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and ***make disciples (followers)*** 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."

To use a running illustration, this commission is like the blast of a starting pistol that launches Jesus' disciples off the blocks and into the Christian journey. As we look at the Acts of the Apostles, the record of the early church, we find a lot of movement. Paul and his associates are traveling all over Asia Minor sharing the gospel with everyone they meet. Many people believe the gospel and start following Jesus, churches are planted, and a gospel movement is born.

In Acts chapter 7, Luke records for us the first account of a disciple, Stephen, being martyred for speaking about Jesus. After Stephen is killed, there arose a great persecution such that all disciples, *except for the apostles*, were scattered throughout the region. Now one would think that if the disciples were scattered, without the apostles (the leaders), then the church would die; however, that was not the case. The church actually thrived under this persecution because regular Joes and Janes were empowered to shared their faith like never before. Rather than hindering the mission it helped galvanize the disciples and caused them rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, not professional ministers, to accomplish the mission. One of those regular Joe's was named Phillip. Phillip went to Samaria, a place typically avoided by Jews, and when he shared about Jesus, many believed, were baptized, and joined him in his mission. We'll talk more about Phillip in a moment.

All followers of Jesus have been given this great commission, but the question is: will we make this commission our personal mission? The word *mission* comes from a Latin word that means, "to send". Every follower of Christ may not technically be a *missionary* but all Christians are sent. We use the word *missionary* to describe people that cross a cultural or language barrier to bring the gospel to a foreign people group. Not all of us have been sent in this way. We are, however, all sent to live *on mission* in the context where we live. It's not by coincidence that you live where you live or work in the place that you work. Acts 17:26 says, "God has determined our allotted periods and the boundary of our dwelling place." In other words, God has sovereignly and purposefully placed you where you are for a reason. One of those reasons is to make him known to the people around you.

A question that we're going to continue hearing at RBC is "Who's your one?" Our valley will only be

transformed as one person at a time hears the life changing message of Jesus and says “Yes” to him. The call is for each of us is to intentionally serve, share, and pray for at least one person this year. One of the most fundamental marks, maybe even the most fundamental mark of a follow of Jesus, is that they help other people follow Jesus. How are you being obedient to the great commission?

### **BIBLE CONVERSATION (40 minutes)**

*Read Acts 8:26-40*

- 1) Have someone in the group explain what’s happening in this story.
- 2) How does this passage teach us *how* and *when* we should share our faith? What opportunities have you observed lately in your life?
- 3) What does vs. 27-28 tell us about *who* to share our faith with? What’s the significance of this man being an Ethiopian and a Eunuch?
- 4) Why do you think he was reading from the book of Isaiah? What does Isaiah foresee will happen when the messiah comes? Read Isaiah 56:3-6.
- 5) In verse 30, we see that Philip began a conversation with the Ethiopian man by asking a question. Why is it more helpful to start with a conversation rather than a presentation? What does this teach us about how to have gospel conversations?
- 6) Vs. 35 – This verse says that Phillip took the opportunity to share with this man the Good News (Gospel) about Jesus. How would you articulate the gospel in your own words, if given the opportunity?
- 7) What is the most challenging thing for you when it comes to obeying the great commission on a daily basis? Where do you need to trust God more?

### **PRAYER (10 minutes)**

- 1) “Who is one person you know that needs to hear the life changing message of Jesus Christ?” Pray for “your one” by first name.
- 2) Ask the Lord to give each of us an opportunity to share Christ this week, the wisdom to see it, and the boldness to take it.

### **A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

If God’s primary purpose for the saved were fellowship, He would take believers immediately to heaven, where spiritual fellowship is perfect, unhindered by sin, disharmony or loneliness. If His primary purpose were learning His word, He would also take believers immediately to heaven, where His Word is perfectly known and understood. And if God’s primary purpose for the saved were to give Him praise, He would, again, take believers immediately to heaven, where praise is perfect and unending.

There is only one reason the Lord allows His church to remain on earth: to seek and to save the lost, just as Christ’s only reason for coming to earth was to seek and save the lost. ‘As the Father has sent Me,’ He declared, ‘I also send you’ (John 20:21).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Matthew 24-28*.