

WHAT'S NEXT

REACHING THE REACHABLE

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV: Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

Ever since the fall of man, people have had to deal with chaos, stress, turmoil, political unrest, and other troubled times. These are all a result of the sin nature that is in existence in every human being. This problem reveals the complete difference between God - who is a God of order and Satan - who loves to create chaos in our lives. One thing we may all be more aware of is that we cannot overcome the chaos by ourselves. We need God's help! The good news is that we can have God's help! All we have to do is ask for it and depend on it! Last week we learned about the “Greatest Commandment” which sets Love as the Standard for all of our thoughts and activities. This week, we're looking at the “Great Commission” which gives us our marching orders and tells us exactly what to do next.

1A) What encouraging statement did Jesus give all of us in Matthew 28:18?

1B) PERSONAL: Explain what this verse means to you as this new year filled with chaos and problems has begun.

2A) List the commands Jesus gave to all of His followers in Matthew 28:19-20.

2B) Read Acts 1:8-9: When did this take place and what did Jesus say that conveys the same message?

3A) What promise did He give in Matthew 28:20?

3B) Read Deuteronomy 31:6. How does this passage reveal that God's promises remain constant?

Read Acts 7:51-8:1

4A) Describe the scene from this passage. Who was involved, etc.

4B) PERSONAL: How do you see people in today's society that appear to be just as "Un-reachable?"

4C) PERSONAL: Make a list of people around you who appear to not be "reachable" at this time, then begin praying for them to come to a point where they are "reachable" and you can reach out to them.

5) How does this passage from Acts 7 reveal the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us and that gives us strength to reach out to the people around us that are not believers?

Read Acts 8:26-40:

6A) Describe the scene found in this passage. Who was involved, etc.

6B) PERSONAL: What do you find interesting and hopefully encouraging about this passage especially if you're feeling led to reach out to someone with the Gospel message?

Read John 17:6-26:

7A) PERSONAL: From these prayers that Jesus prayed for His Disciples and for all Believers, choose the verses that are the most meaningful to you at this time. Write them down on a separate piece of paper, put them in your Bible, and pray them for yourself and your family. Then watch to see what God is doing in your life.

7B) According to Luke 19:10, how do the commands Jesus gave us coincide with the mission Jesus came to fulfill?

ACT: What's next? We have been given a commandment to follow. We are to focus each day on how we can "reach the reachable." We need to put ourselves in positions where non-believers can see us live out God's commandments and live with the peace that only God can give, so that we can be prepared to share with them our story of what God has done for us. Jesus said that we will be His witnesses. He has given us His Power, His Protection, and even His Prayers. We just need to be ready and willing to reach out whenever the opportunities present themselves. God is working and He will bring us people that need to hear the Good News of His Gospel message.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's explore passages that describe why it is so important that we teach others about Jesus.

Monday:

John 8:31-32 NLT

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Tuesday:

Colossians 3:16 NLT

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

Wednesday:

1 Timothy 4:16 NLT

Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.

Thursday:

2 Timothy 3:16 NLT

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

Friday:

2 Timothy 4:2 NLT

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

Saturday:

Titus 2:1-8 NIV

You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Sunday:

Titus 2:11-15 NIV

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

