

Marked

Scripture and Background Information for August 6-12.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Some of Jesus' last words, what we know as the great commission, provides us with a glimpse at His vision for what the life of a Christian disciple is meant to look like. Those who follow Jesus are supposed to be marked by certain qualities that are central to who we are as believers. As we reflect on Jesus' commission to us, let us take steps to live out these "MARCS" by being missional, accountable, reproducible, communal, and spiritual.

Background for Matthew 28:18-20:

This week we will be discussing two of these "MARCS": being missional and accountable. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus calls us to make disciples as we go about our daily lives. No matter who you are, what you do, or where you live, if you are a Christian, your task is to make disciples. We begin this process by living missionally. Jesus Himself lived missionally. He was always looking for opportunities to save those who were lost by telling them about His Gospel. We, likewise, should be people who look for and seek out opportunities to share Jesus with those around us.

As we make disciples, we also need to have good accountability. In Matthew 28:20, we are called to teach others about what Jesus has commanded us and hold them accountable to upholding those commands. Accountability isn't meant to be overbearing or manipulative, instead it is meant to be a process that points people to be devoted to Jesus, discern what He desires for our lives, understand our dependence on Him, and walk in the direction He wants us to live. It is a type of relationship that enhances and encourages our personal discipleship but also pushes us to disciple others well.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. Why is it encouraging that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth? What are the commands Jesus refers to in verse 20?
2. What does it mean for us to "go" make disciples? How can we teach others to obey Jesus' commands well?
3. If you lived out God's call to live missionally and have good accountability, how would your life change? How could the lives of those around you change? Which do you need to focus more attention on living out at this moment of your walk?

**Some of your groups may have gone through this passage or spent some time talking about living missionally already in this series. If so, feel free to focus more on the accountability piece of this passage or using one of the passages that Chris brought up on Sunday if that makes more sense for your group.*