



“And teach all nations...”

Discipling

Matthew 28:18-20 records the words of Christ to the disciples, but most Bible authorities tell us that the words are a “commission” to the Church. In fact, these verses are called The Great Commission.

What Is The Great Commission?

If these words are to the Church, then we have three responsibilities: 1) to go, 2) to teach, and 3) to baptize. Write some of the ways your church “goes” and “teaches” below.

Ways Your Church “Goes”	Ways Your Church “Teaches”

Teaching Two Ways

Matthew 28 not only commands us to “go,” but it also commands us to “teach.” In verse 19 we are told to “teach” and in verse 20 we are told what to teach. However, the two words “teach” and “teaching” are from two different Greek words. To better understand what the Bible means by teaching, we need to look at the Greek words used here.

Greek Word	Translation	Meaning
Matheteuo/Mathetes	Teach (v. 19)	Make Disciples
Didasko	Teaching (v. 20)	To Impart Knowledge; To Instruct

Discipling Involves Two Relationships

1. A relationship between teacher and student
2. A relationship between the student and Christ

Matthew 28:19-20

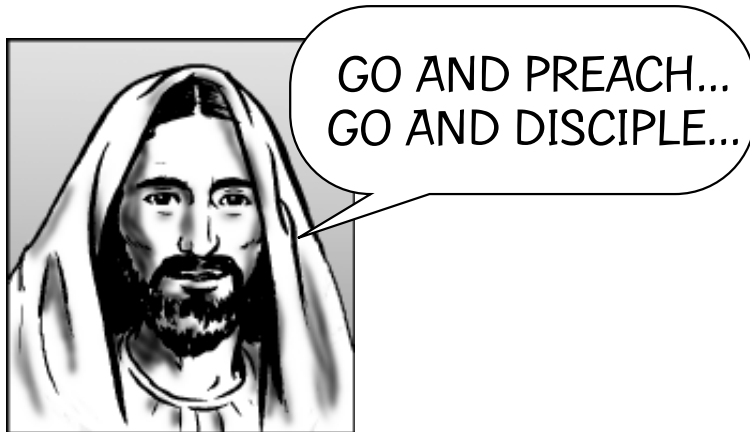
Go ye therefore, and *make disciples of (build a relationship with)* all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: *instructing* them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen.

How To Make Disciples

What is the process by which we disciple others?

We Must Preach —Mark 16:15

	Preaching	Teaching
Greek Words Translated...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Euangelizo</i> (to proclaim good news) ● <i>Kerusso</i> (to herald, announce) ● <i>Diangelo</i> (to proclaim thoroughly) ● <i>Katangello</i> (to proclaim) ● <i>Kerugma</i> (message) ● <i>Kerux</i> (Preacher) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Didasko</i> (to instruct) ● <i>Didaktikos</i> (apt to teach) ● <i>Didaktos</i> (to teach) ● <i>Didaskalia</i> (the doctrine taught) ● <i>Didakay</i> (the truth taught) ● <i>Didaskolas</i> (teacher)
Times Found	148	216
Subject of	The Gospel	The Whole Body of Truth
Audience Addressed	The Unsaved	The Church



Thus, the disciples obeyed as we see in Acts 14:21:

“And when they had *preached* (euangelizo) the gospel to that city, and had *taught* (matheteuo-discipled) many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch.”

We Must _____ Build A Relationship _____

Discipling means far more than winning people to Christ. Now, we must *matheteuo* them. That is, we must build a personal relationship with the new believer and seek to help them grow to spiritual maturity!

THREE IMPORTANT KEYS TO DISCIPLING

1. **Friendship**
 New believers need a friend! Most of their friends are probably unsaved and will hinder their life. Christians must go out of their way to help them build new friendships. Your friendship with new believers is vital to their growth!
2. **Accountability**
 If a friend sets up a program of Scripture memory and Bible study, and checks our progress regularly, we will more likely be consistent in practicing these Christian exercises.
3. **A Shared Experience**
 When two or three work together on something, they are more likely to succeed than when one tries to do it himself (Ecclesiastes 4:12).



We Must Instruct ("Didasko" Teaching)





Discipling involves not only a personal friendship and spending time with a person, but it involves "didasko" teaching as well. **Matthew 28:20** says that part of "matheteuo" teaching involves "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

We must teach our newborn friends the Word. How do we do it?

DIDASKO TEACHING

REGULARLY
BY VARIOUS METHODS
SYSTEMATICALLY

Various Methods:

-  In person
-  At church
-  By mail (letter, e-mail)
-  Use tools

Systematic Instruction:

Have a plan before you begin!

● Begin With The Basics

The basics should include the following:

- 1) Review and clarify how they became saved (the plan of salvation)
- 2) Go over the assurance of salvation
- 3) Teach them how to pray
- 4) Teach them how to read and study the Bible
- 5) Teach them how to witness
- 6) Teach them the importance of baptism
- 7) Teach them their responsibilities to the local church
 - Membership
 - Faithful Attendance
 - Tithing
 - Participation

● **Teach The Cardinal Doctrines**

Once they have a grasp of the basics, they can be taught the main doctrines of the Word:

- 1) The inspiration and authority of the Word
- 2) The person and work of Christ
- 3) The Trinity
- 4) The Holy Spirit
- 5) The depravity of man
- 6) The reality of Satan
- 7) The necessity for personal holiness
- 8) The rapture and second coming of Christ

If you feel that these truths are beyond your ability, use tools such as the Christian Growth Series from Positive Action For Christ. This set of four booklets has been used to disciple thousands of new converts all over the world. Get two copies of the booklets and work with your disciple through each booklet.

Are you carrying out God's great commission? Remember, we are *commanded* to go, to preach the gospel, and to disciple new believers. Whom are you discipling today?



5

DISCIPLING

Big Idea: We must all take part in the Great Commission.

Text: Matthew 28:18-20

Hook: Play the game “Simon Says.” Compliment your teens on their exact obedience to your commands. Point out how that often we aren’t as careful to obey God, especially concerning the Great Commission.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:18-20 records the words of Christ to the disciples, but most Bible authorities tell us that the words are a commission to the Church. In fact, these verses are called “The Great Commission.”

Since they are to the Church, we have three responsibilities: 1) to go, 2) to teach, and 3) to baptize. We will cover the first two in this lesson.



Give your teens some time to think about and discuss the following questions and have them put their answers in their student book.



How does the Church “Go” today? Some of the ways the church goes are by *sending* missionaries, by *supporting* and *praying* for those missionaries, and by *taking trips* to the field to help missionaries on a short term basis.



How does the Church “teach” today? (Sunday school classes, preaching & teaching on Sunday and Wednesday, small group Bible studies, youth ministry programs [such as ProTeens], children’s programs [such as Patch the Pirate, AWANA, etc.], counseling services, Christian schools, and new converts classes)

GREAT COMMISSION TEACHING


Notice **Matthew 28:19-20**. We find the word “teach” in **verse 19** and the word “teaching” in **verse 20**. Although they are the same word in English, they are not

the same word in Greek. The word translated “teach” in **verse 19** is the Greek word *matheteuo* (math eh TYOO-oh). The word translated “teaching” in **verse 20** is the Greek word *didasko* (die-DAS-ko)

MATHETEUEO

The word translated “teach” in **Matthew 28:19** has a long and colorful history in the Greek culture. In the first century the word meant to “disciple” or to “make disciples.” A disciple was more than a mere student. A disciple was a follower of a person. The word in the days of Christ:

Involved a relationship between teacher and student. A discipler must build a close relationship with his student.

 Whom are you discipling? It’s clear that mature Christians are supposed to be building relationships with younger Christians—even teenagers are supposed to do this. Are you ignoring younger teens, or are you helping them grow in Christ?

It meant to have a personal relationship with Christ and to fall in love with Him and commit yourself to follow His teachings with your whole heart! In every use in the New Testament the word involves an attachment to Christ. His teaching has force only when there is first this commitment to His person.

Matheteuo teaching is based on two relationships:


1. A close relationship between the human teacher and his student
2. A loving relationship between the student and Christ.

DIDASKO

The word “didasko” simply means “to impart knowledge” or “to instruct.” Basically, it has little to do with building a relationship. It is the generally accepted idea in teaching today. “I know something, I teach it to you.” That is didasko learning/teaching.

Let’s read **Matthew 28:19-20** in light of what we have learned:

Go ye therefore, and make disciples of (build a relationship with) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Instructing them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen.

 Look again at the list of ways the church teaches above. Which of these are simple didasko instructing, and which are matheteuo discipling?

(Most of the list is didasko teaching, not matheteuo teaching. That is, they are simply imparting knowledge in a classroom setting.)

HOW TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Now that we see what is involved in discipling (building a relationship with the student and then causing them to have a relationship with Christ), we need to discover how we do it. What is the process by which we disciple others?



Tell your teens that you are going to hand out some slips of paper that have instructions for them to follow. Tell them that they are to obey those instructions exactly, but they cannot show them to anyone else. These are the instructions:

- Lead your classmates to form a circle and play “Ring-around The Rosie.” (1or 2)
- No matter what your other classmates do, don’t participate. In fact, tell them that you are not going to participate because you think the activity is childish. Discourage others from participating. (3 or 4)
- One of your classmates is going to lead you to perform an activity. Actively participate. (rest of class)

Afterwards, debrief your class by asking these questions:

- How did you feel when some in your class wouldn’t participate? Did it discourage you from participating?
- (Ask the leaders) Was it discouraging when some wouldn’t participate?
- Would it have been much easier if everyone had participated?

God’s Great Commission is not just for some; it is for all of us. Hopefully, you are not a bystander, but an active participant when it comes to fulfilling God’s commands.

WE MUST PREACH (MARK 16:15)

Mark records an event similar to Matthew 28, but not the exact same event.

Matthew 28:19-20 was spoken just as Christ was ascending to heaven. Mark’s quote is from an evening meal with the disciples shortly before his ascension (v. 14). Here Christ says, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Preaching is a totally different word from discipling and instructing. The word “preach” is the Greek word *kerusso* (kay ROO so). It means to proclaim publicly (as a herald who publicly announced the king’s news to the crowd outside the palace). Let’s compare the New Testament words for “preaching” and “teaching.”

	PREACHING	TEACHING
Greek Words	Euangelizo (to proclaim good news)	Didasko (to instruct)
Translated...	Kerusso (to herald, announce) Diangelo (to proclaim thoroughly) Katangelo (to proclaim) Kerugma (The message) Kerux (Preacher)	Didaktikos (apt to teach) Didaktos (to teach) Didaskalia (the doctrine taught) Didakay (the body of truth taught) Didaskolas (the teacher)
Times Used	148	216
Subject	The Gospel (good news)	Whole Body of Truth
Audience	The Unsaved	The Church

In every case (with the possible exception of one, **Acts 20:27**), the words translated “preaching” are to the unsaved and the message was the gospel! Conversely, every time the word teaching occurs, it is in connection with the Church!

First (**Mark 16:15**), Christ tells the disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel; then (**Matthew 28:19-20**) He tells them to go into all the world and make disciples. We find this same order in **Acts 14:21** “*And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught (matheteuo) many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch.*”



Why is preaching the first step? Because a person must be saved before he can build a relationship with the Lord.



What is this “gospel” that is to be preached? It is defined in **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**. The gospel is God’s good news concerning the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Since this is the case, the first step in discipling is to give out this good news that men might be saved.

WE MUST BUILD A RELATIONSHIP

Salvation is the first step in our responsibility to the souls of men, but it is certainly not the last step. Discipling means far more than winning people to Christ. Now, we must matheteuo them. That is, we must build a personal relationship with the new believer and seek to help them grow to spiritual maturity! Let’s look at three keys to building this relationship.

The Importance of Friendship. New believers need a friend because most of their friends are probably unsaved and will be a hindrance to their life.

The Importance of Accountability. Preachers/teachers can tell us to pray, to memorize Scripture, to study the Word; but if we don’t have someone to answer to, we probably won’t do it consistently.

The Importance of a Shared Experience. Further, there is something about

doing something together that makes a new believer more consistent. The Bible says, “...a threefold cord is not quickly broken” (Eccl. 4:12).

WE MUST INSTRUCT

Discipling involves not only a personal friendship and spending time with a person, but it involves “didasko” teaching as well. **Matthew 28:20** says that part of “matheteuo” teaching involves “teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” Thus, we must teach our newborn friends the Word. How do we do it?

Regularly. We need to set up a regular time to meet with them. They need training before they will understand the more advanced preaching/teaching.

By Various Methods.

- **In person.** This method allows for more interaction and helps develop the relationship faster.
- **At church.** It is important that you sit with the person being disciplined. That way you can help them find verses in their Bible, and are available to answer questions they may have.
- **By mail (letter, e-mail).** Sometimes personal contact is not possible because of circumstances. In these cases establish contact via “snail mail” or “e-mail.” Be consistent, faithful, regular in your contacts.
- **Using tools.** Positive Action For Christ’s *Milk, Meat, Bread,* and *Fish* booklets have been designed specifically for discipleship and have been used around the world to disciple thousands of new believers. In addition good tapes and videos from the church library will be helpful.

Systematically. Have a plan before you begin! That’s why following a program such as the Christian Growth Series (*Milk, Meat,* etc.) is helpful. It is already laid out in a systematic way.



Begin With The Basics. What are the first things that a new believer should be taught?

1. Review and clarify how they became saved (the plan of salvation)
2. Go over the assurance of salvation
3. Teach them how to pray
4. Teach them how to read and study the Bible
5. Teach them how to witness
6. Teach them the importance of baptism
7. Teach them their responsibilities to the local church: membership, faithful attendance, tithing, and participation

Teach the Cardinal Doctrines. Once they have a grasp of the basics, they can be

taught the main doctrines of the Word.

1. The inspiration and authority of the Word
2. The person and work of Christ
3. The Trinity
4. The Holy Spirit
5. The depravity of man
6. The reality of Satan
7. The necessity for personal holiness
8. The rapture and second coming of Christ

You may feel that these truths are far beyond your ability. That's where discipleship books are helpful. You can work through the books together.



You may want to develop a discipleship program among your teens. Allow the mature senior highers to disciple the junior highers. Provide them a time, place, and material. This will give your senior highers a chance to live this lesson.

REFLECTION

Are you carrying out God's great commission? Remember, we are *commanded* to go, to preach the gospel, and to disciple the new believers. Whom are you discipling today?

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. (1) Preach
(2) We must build a relationship.
(3) We must instruct.
2. (1) A relationship between teacher and student
(2) A relationship between the student and Christ
3. Any five of the following seven are correct.
(1) The plan of salvation
(2) The assurance of salvation
(3) How to pray
(4) How to read and study the Bible
(5) How to witness
(6) The importance of baptism
(7) Their responsibilities to the local church
4. (1) Friendship
(2) Accountability
(3) A shared experience

LESSON 5 QUIZ — DISCIPLING

NAME _____ ISC # _____ DATE _____

CHURCH/CITY _____

LEVEL _____ SCORE _____ (5 points Level One; 13 points Level Two)

Level One And Level Two

(3) 1. What are the three steps to disciple others?

(1) We Must _____ (3) _____

(2) _____

(2) 2. What are the two relationships that discipleship involves?

(1) _____

(2) _____

Level Two Only

(5) 3. List five of the seven *basic* truths that you should teach a new believer.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

(3) 4. What are three important keys to discipling?

(1) _____ (3) _____

(2) _____

HOW TO MAKE DISCIPLES

WE MUST PREACH—MARK 16:15

WE MUST BUILD A RELATIONSHIP

- **FRIENDSHIP**
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**
- **SHARED EXPERIENCES**

**WE MUST INSTRUCT
("DIDASKO" TEACHING)**

