

MAIN POINT

Christ commissioned every church and church member with the task of making disciples.

INTRODUCTION

Brainstorm a list of reasons people go to church and functions of the church, both appropriate and off base. Why does church have such a broad appeal to people?

What is the most important reason for being a part of a church? What is the role of the church in the world?

The world needs to know who Jesus really is and what the benefits are of putting faith in Him. Before ascending into Heaven, Jesus gave us—His church—the responsibility to make those truths known. God could have chosen to work in the world independent of His people, yet He chose to engage us in accomplishing His will. As the church, we represent God to people who need to know and understand Him.

DISCUSSION

> **READ MATTHEW 28:16-20.**

Why did Jesus lead His command with a statement of His authority? In what is Jesus' authority rooted?

What do you think it means to have all authority "in heaven and on earth"?

What does the authority of Jesus do to the confidence level of His disciples?

Why is it important that we understand the authority of Jesus? How does this truth impact our mission?

According to these verses, disciples of Jesus are to go; make disciples; baptize them; teach them; and remember His presence. Discuss 1) what each command means, 2) how the church can follow, and 3) what role you personally have in obeying.

In which of these five areas are you most involved? In which area would you like to get more involved?

Why is it important for every believer to get involved in the Great Commission? What happens when you don't own your part of the effort?

How should Jesus' promise of His presence (v. 20) influence our attitude in making disciples? How is Jesus with us today? Read John 14:25-26 to help you answer.

APPLICATION

This week we learned that we need to understand that God loves all people, understand our responsibility, live a winsome life, invite others to experience God, share our stories, and explain the gospel. Which of these is God speaking most directly to you about? How do you need to respond?