

# Sermon Study Guide

11.15.2009 – Great Commission



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# GREAT COMMISSION

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WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15, 2009

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## DISCUSSION: TOGETHER AS A GROUP

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1. Barnes & Noble and the Discovery Channel are inundated with books and documentaries related to the convergence of “prophecies” that the world will end sometime in 2012 (some even suggest a specific date). While the reliability of such date-specific prophecies in the past has always proven to be dubious, let’s humor the idea for a moment. If we knew the world was going to end in three years, how might our priorities shift?

### SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### ACTS 1:6-8

<sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

## FOR DISCUSSION

- While there may be a lot that we don't currently know or understand about the end of this age and the corresponding dawning of the next, **Jesus did give specific instructions to His followers for how to occupy ourselves until that time comes!**
2. We are to be Jesus' witnesses. How are we to be His witnesses? As you consider this question, it may help to ask yourselves these questions:
    - a. How does the life of a witness look differently than someone who is not a witness of Jesus?
    - b. Do we bear witness by what we say about Christ or by how we live?
    - c. How does the power that comes from the Holy Spirit enable us to be His witnesses? Why would the presence of the Spirit be necessary?
    - As witnesses to His authority and power, we are also to draw others to be His disciples as well. There are three components to "disciple-making:" going out for the purpose of making disciples, baptizing believers, and teaching them to observe all of His teachings. We sometimes refer to this process as "Evangelism."
    - This word can be a bit scary and is often misunderstood. It comes from a Greek word (euangelion) that simply means "a good message" or "good news." One who practices evangelism, therefore, is one who delivers good news! What is the good news?
  3. Take some time to reflect on your own journey toward faith in Christ—wherever you may be on that journey. Is there a particular person or group who has influenced you on that journey? In what way were they good witnesses of Christ?
  4. Close by taking some time to reflect on your own personal witness for Christ. We are called to live according to the culture of a Kingdom that exists now but is yet to come fully.
    - a. Ask yourself: are there ways in which my life fails to bear witness to Christ—where I am still ruled by the ways of this present world?

- b. What comes to mind when you think of how you could become a better witness?
- c. What kind of impact might it have on those around me—my spouse, my kids, my coworkers, etc.—if I were to exercise obedience to the teachings and example of Christ in that area?
- d. *Remember: power to be His witness comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit in you.* Spend some time praying together. Ask Him to help you, to teach you His ways for loving, living, and serving.