



Aim for Week 1

- To grow in compassion for the lost

1. Introduction: The Great Commission Matthew 28:16-20

'Mission is the force that gives the body of Christ vibrancy, purpose, and direction. When the church neglects its role as God's agent for mission, it is actually neglecting its own lifeblood.' *Gailyn Van Rheenen*

2. Main point: This is Gods Mission

The purpose of this week is to introduce the series.

- What is the great commission?
- How does this fit into God's mission plan outlined elsewhere in scripture?
- Where do we stand in relation to God outworking His plan?
- What is the churches responsibility?

The Great Commission is the Great Opportunity to Grow in compassion for the lost.

3. Questions

- How are you feeling about this series?
- Do you agree with the statement that if we neglect the churches call as God's agent for mission it is neglecting its own lifeblood?
- What would need to change in your life for you to say that Mission gives you vibrancy, purpose and direction in your life?
- What would you say is the state of your heart towards the lost?
- Do you accept that mission is for everybody and not just for the evangelist?
- How can you let the Holy Spirit bring you peace to review your whole approach to mission?
- Are you willing to change and cooperate more with the Holy Spirit in this?
- What fears anxiety and doubts do you have that may stop you finding, through this sermon series, a new freedom in witnessing?

4. Putting it into practice

- Where have you seen fruit in your witness recently?
- Who among the lost do you have a burden to pray for? Or
- Who has God placed in your life who you could begin to pray for?
- Are you prepared to be intentional about praying and then reaching out to these people?

5. Prayer focus

"Ask the Holy Spirit to give us God's heart for the Lost"

Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to give the you the Fathers heart for the lost. Be open to moving in the gifts of the Spirit with words or pictures that persuade you that Jesus knew you needed the Holy Spirit to help you with strength and power to overcome any doubts and fears.

6. Tools

Go to <https://www.relationalmission.org/takeastep> and watch Session Two: 'Who'. Make a list of the people God has put in your life who you could commit to praying for and trying to reach.



Aim for Week 2

- To see the power and authority of God manifested in your everyday life
- To learn to live in greater dependence on God

Practical witness

Do something publicly

1. 'All Authority in heaven and earth has been given to me'

Matthew 28:18

'Christian responsibility to the Great Commission begins with a humble acceptance that our success is not contingent upon the measure of our doubting faith, nor upon our ability to persuade. There is no place we can go and no person we can bear witness to that is not already under the comprehensive authority of the risen Christ. We must rest in his authority and then act upon it.' (Akin, Merkle, Robinson).

2. Main point: Jesus has all authority

The purpose of this week is to encourage us that however we may feel ill-equipped or unqualified to participate in the great commission-

- It is not about us
- It is about the power of the One who has commissioned us
- For this reason, before Jesus gives the disciples the great commission, he reminds them who it is that is sending them out
- We must understand and grasp this authority, like the disciples, before we can accept the commission without fearfulness or anxiety

Jesus' revelation speaks right to the disciples' fears, doubts and hesitations

3. Questions

- What do you think about the above quote?
- Do you agree that we need a humble acceptance that we are covered by Jesus's authority to share our hope?
- How can we find rest in his authority?
- How can this bring freedom in our witness?

4. Putting it into practice

- How have you got on with the practical witness this week? Share any stories you have.
- If you haven't done it, why not / what has stopped you?
- What thing could you do publicly this week to be more visible in your faith?

5. Prayer focus

"Ask the Holy Spirit to give us confidence in Christ"

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a real confidence that despite your trepidations and doubts He has authority over every non-believer that you may encounter through prayer and witness. Be open to moving in the gifts of the Spirit with words or pictures that persuade you that Jesus has ultimate authority over everything and you are commissioned in this authority.

6. Tools

Take a look at this resource and try using it this week.

- 3 Circles Gospel Series [The 3 Circles - YouTube](#)

What do you think about this as a tool to help share the gospel? Try using it this week.



Aim for Week 3

- To feel more spiritually alive
- To grow in wonder at the privilege of partnership

Practical witness

Slow down and say hello and engage with people

1. 'Go therefore' Matthew 28:19

'Look Christ in the face – whose mercy you have professed to obey – and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstance in the march to publish His mercy to the world.' *William Booth*

2. Main point: Jesus' call requires an intentional response

The purpose of this week is to encourage us that Jesus' commission requires an intentional response from us.

- It is a command
- Not to go about your business but go about the kings' business
- Fulfilling the great commission will not happen accidentally
- It requires action, commitment and sacrifice

The great commission is not an option to be considered, it is a command to be obeyed

3. Questions

- What do you think about the above quote?
- What is Jesus asking each of us right now?
- Are you prepared to obey and Go?
- What stops you if anything from obeying the command to Go?
- What needs to happen to free you to obey the command to Go?
- What actions can you take as a demonstration of your willingness to Go?
- What is the cost of this in terms of commitment and sacrifice?

4. Putting it into practice

- How have you got on with the practical witness this week? Share any stories you have?
- If you haven't done it, why not / what has stopped you?
- What makes it hard to slow down?
- Why are we in so much of a rush?
- In what practical ways could we slow down?

5. Prayer focus

"Ask the Holy Spirit to open up opportunities"

Ask the Holy Spirit to create opportunities to share your hope with people you interact with and to increase your openness to engage with new people you may encounter. Be open to moving in the gifts of the Spirit with words or pictures that increase your reliance on God to provide interactions with people where you can share the gospel.

6. Tools

Take a look at this resource and try using it this week.

Go to <https://www.relationalmission.org/takeastep> and Watch Session 3 'Smile.'

Share your thoughts on the video.



Aim for Week 4

- To grow in appreciation of the gospel in your own life
- To expect to see people coming to saving faith in Jesus and disciplined in the church

Practical witness

Socialize / Be hospitable

1. 'Make disciples' Matthew 28:19

'Why are so many supposed Christians sitting on the sidelines of the church, maybe even involved in the machinery of the church, but not wholeheartedly, passionately, sacrificially, and joyfully giving their lives to making disciples of all nations? Could it be because so many people in the church have settled for superficial religion instead of supernatural regeneration?' *David Platt & Francis Chan*

2. Main point: We are called to make disciples not converts

The purpose of this week is to emphasize that making disciples is the main command of the great commission.

- It is not merely the call to bear witness (though it includes that)
- It is not merely to convert people to faith
- It is to make disciples emphasizing long term commitment

Making disciples is part of our identity in Christ (fishers of men) and to do so is a tremendously fulfilling pursuit

3. Questions

- What do you think about the above quote?
- What does it mean to make disciples?
- How does your own experience of being disciplined effect your view of this?
- How could discipling be tremendously fulfilling for you? What needs to change for this to happen?
- Does your involvement in the churches discipling groups help?

4. Putting it into practice

- How have you got on with the practical witness this week? Share any stories you have?
- If you haven't done it, why not / what has stopped you?
- Who could you reach out to and socialize with in the coming weeks?
- Who could you invite for a meal?
- What would it take for you to regularly make space in your diary for this?

5. Prayer focus

"Ask the Holy Spirit to give us boldness"

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you increased boldness to say yes and enter the harvest field. Be open to moving in the gifts of the Spirit with words or pictures that may unlock new opportunities and freedom in this. Jesus knew we couldn't do this in our own strength and we would need the Holy Spirit to be our mentor and guide.

6. Tools

Go to www.crossway.org/articles/how-radically-ordinary-hospitality-changed-rosaria-butterfields-life/ Share your thoughts on this video.



Aim for Week 5

- To get a heart for God's global mission

Practical witness

Share your hope in tough circumstances

1. 'All nations' Matthew 28:19

'We need to become global Christians with a global vision, for we have a global God.' *John Stott*

2. Main point: To get a global vision for mission

The purpose of this week is to recognise the global vision of the great commission and what that means for us today in Whitstable.

- Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations and cultures
- The consequences of the curse in Genesis 3 were global and universal
- The remedy of the gospel is the same
- There are some 7000 unreached people groups in the world

The theme of God blessing the nations can be seen in many psalms and so praying through the psalms can help us get a heart for the nations

3. Questions

- What do you think about the above quote?
- How is the great commission linked to God's heart for his people to fill the earth as his representatives in Genesis? (see Gal 3:8 also)
- Look at Matt 4:15-16 Jesus intended the message to go forth to peoples beyond Israel
- How does this call make you feel?
- How can you support/get involved/respond to this aspect of the great commission?

4. Putting it into practice

- How have you got on with the practical witness this week? Share any stories you have?
- If you haven't done it, why not / what has stopped you?
- If you came across someone who was expressing how tough their circumstances were how could you share your hope of how Jesus has helped you when you were having a tough time?
- Would you be willing to pray for them?
- What would stop you sharing your experience of God's love for you with others who are struggling?

5. Prayer focus

"Ask the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom as we share"

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a real sense of wisdom as we seek to share our hope in the midst of tough situations or the context of current events. Be open to moving in the gifts of the Spirit with words or pictures that may unlock new opportunities and freedom in this.

6. Tools

- Bridge of Life [The Bridge to Life | Discipleship Resources | The Navigators](#)

What do you think about this as a tool to communicate the gospel? Try using it this week.



Aim for Week 6

- To learn to live in greater dependence on God

Practical witness

Share encouraging truth / invite someone to church

1. 'Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you'

Matthew 28:20

'Obedience is the grand object of the work of grace in the hearts of those who are chosen and called: they are to become obedient children, conformed to the image of the Elder Brother, with whom the Father is well please.' *Charles Spurgeon*

2. Main point: Making disciples involves teaching them

The purpose of this preach is to look the key commands of Jesus in relation to making disciples

- Jesus said if you love me keep my commandments John 14:15
- Obedience is the at the heart of being a disciple
- Teaching is at the heart of making disciples
- To make disciples we need to know the word and be able to teach how to apply it

Because the world has 'exchanged the truth of God for a lie' (Romans 1:25), teaching the truth is required to reverse that corruption.

3. Questions

- What do you think about the above quote?
- What are the key commands of Jesus?
- Do you agree that obeying these commands is evidence that you love Jesus?
- Do you agree that our obedient response is Loving God, Loving Others, and the great commission? Where do you need to grow in these areas?

4. Putting it into practice

- How have you got on with the practical witness this week? Share any stories you have?
- If you haven't done it, why not / what has stopped you?
- Who could you invite to church?
- What would stop you regularly inviting non-believer's you know to church?
- How could you share how encouraging you find your relationship with God – what could trigger this as peoples converse with you?

5. Prayer focus

"Ask the Holy Spirit to give us sensitivity to His voice"

Ask the Holy Spirit as your advocate, counsellor and guide, to show you how to create more space in your life for Him to remind you and teach you the things that Jesus said. Be open to moving in the gifts of the Spirit with words or pictures that may unlock new opportunities and freedom in this.

6. Tools

- The 4 Points - <https://www.the4points.com/uk/>

What do you think if this as a tool to share the gospel? Try using it this week



Aim for Week 7

- To grow in wonder at the privilege of partnership

Practical witness

Share your testimony

1. 'Baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit' Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-11

'I'm convinced that a great missionary movement will begin not with a new focus on the world, but with a new vision of God – and then the world.' *John Piper*

2. Main point: Baptism and making disciples go hand in hand

The purpose of this week is to look at the importance of baptism and how it relates to 'making disciples'

- Jesus shows it is an essential part of making disciples by including it in the great commission itself
- Jesus gives the command but Paul gives the theology (Eph 4:5; 1 Cor 12:13)
- The fact that the whole trinity is involved in this reminds us that mission is derived from the very nature of God
- The great commission is framed in the context of mission

Baptism is a symbol of a believer's union with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection. It is not the means of salvation but the evidence of it

3. Questions

- What do you think about the above quote?
- What does baptism symbolize?
- Why is this an important part of making disciples?
- (Eph. 4:5, 1 Cor 12:13). How does this show that baptism includes both our union with Jesus and with other people?
- What is the significance of being baptised into the 'Father, Son and the Holy Spirit'?
- Have you been baptised? Why was it significant to you?

4. Putting it into practice

- How have you got on with the practical witness this week? Share any stories you have?
- If you haven't done it, why not / what has stopped you?
- Have you ever shared your testimony?
- Would you know how to share it in one minute and in five minutes?
- What would help you get more used to sharing this regularly with friends?
- Do you think written testimonies could be helpful?

5. Prayer focus

"Ask the Holy Spirit to give us the words to say"

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you peace and confidence in that He will give you words to say whenever you have opportunity to share your testimony with someone. Pray for increased openness to the Holy Spirit in the whole area of interacting with others about your faith. Be open to moving in the gifts of the Spirit with words or pictures that may unlock new opportunities and freedom in this.

6. Tools

Go to <https://www.relationalmission.org/takeastep> and watch 'Session 5: What's my story.' Have a practice at the 6-word testimony.



Aim for Week 8

- To see the power and authority of God manifested in your everyday life
- To experience greater intimacy with the Holy Spirit

Practical witness

Offer to pray for someone

1. 'And behold I am with you always' Matthew 28:20

'Shall I tell you what sustained me amidst the toil, the hardship, and loneliness of my exiled life? It was the promise, 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end.' *David Livingstone*

2. Main point: Jesus is with us!

The purpose of this week is to encourage the church that Jesus does not give us the great commission and then leave us to it

- Jesus never meant us to accomplish the great commission on our own
- Jesus promised His presence, provision and power to fulfill His purpose
- This assurance sends us out on our mission in full confidence

The success of the spread of the gospel to the nations is not dependent on our efforts or talents but on the promised empowering of the Holy Spirit (see Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8).

3. Questions

- What do you think about the above quote?
- How have you experienced Jesus 'with you' this week?
- Why does Jesus put so much emphasis on remaining in Him when we do obey His commands? John 15
- Why does He warn us that without Him we can be fruitless?
- How can we go about the great commission full of His indwelling presence?
- Who can help us live like that? Do you have enough space in your life to learn to live like this?

4. Putting it into practice

- How have you got on with the practical witness this week? Share any stories you have?
- If you haven't done it, why not / what has stopped you?
- What experiences have you had with offering to pray for unbelievers?
- What are your fears around offering to pray for people?
- What kind of thing do you think it would be good to pray?
- What is our expectation for God to meet with people when we pray for them?

5. Prayer focus

"Ask the Holy Spirit to give us power"

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you power now and throughout the week to commit to participating in the great commission. Ask Him to reveal any hinderances to this power and how to remove them. Be open to moving in the gifts of the Spirit with words or pictures that may unlock new opportunities and freedom in this.

6. Tools

Go to <https://www.relationalmission.org/takeastep> and watch **Session 4**: Early offer of prayer. Share your thoughts on the video.



Aim for Week 9

- To get a renewed vision for eternity that shapes the way you live today

Practical witness

Share the gospel

1. 'to the end of the age' Matthew 28:20

'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.' *Jim Elliot*

2. Main point: King Jesus will return

The purpose of this week is to show how our outworking of the great commission is related to and shaped by the promise of Jesus' return

- Confident of Christ's return
- Encouraged by the promise of new creation
- We can give ourselves completely to fulfilling the great commission knowing there is a day when the kingdom is consummated
- The mission will be completed
- Faithfully we will receive the 'well done' of the Father

The promise of Jesus to be with us 'to the end of the age' clearly and powerfully implies that the command of the great commission is still in place today.

3. Questions

- What do you think about the above quote?
- How does Matthew 24:14 relate the great commission to the end of all times?
- How does 2 Peter 3:9 show us that we need patience and endurance in seeing this fulfilled?
- Does the promise of the return of the King equip us to endure trial and tribulation, persecution and rejection as we go about the mission?
- How have you changed during this series regarding your willingness and commitment to engage with the great commission?

4. Putting it into practice

- How have you got on with the practical witness this week? Share any stories you have?
- If you haven't done it, why not / what has stopped you?
- Can you articulate the gospel succinctly?
- Have you practiced this?
- Who could you share it with?
- How do you recognise the Holy Spirit prompting to share?
- What experiences of this have you had?

5. Prayer focus

"Ask the Holy Spirit to open hearts as we share"

Ask the Holy Spirit to increase your contact with people with open hearts to Jesus. Listen to what He says now about where your own heart needs to be opened to the powerful potential you have to be His witness. Be open to moving in the gifts of the Spirit with words or pictures that may unlock new opportunities and freedom in this.

6. Tools

Go to <https://www.relationalmission.org/takeastep> and watch Session 8 'Lifestyle.' How are you going to make being on mission a lifestyle?