

Bible References

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (TNIV)

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

James 1:22 (NIV)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Philippians 4:12 & 13 (CEV)

I know what it is to be poor or to have plenty, and I have lived under all kinds of conditions. I know what it means to be full or to be hungry, to have too much or too little. Christ gives me the strength to face anything.



Leader Version

Discussion Guide

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Groups

Discussion Generators

• **SEEK:** What are two things that stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)

SEEK: Do you struggle talking about faith and beliefs with other people? What holds you back from communicating your faith with other people? (*Feel free to break the ice as a leader*)

• **SEEK:** Read **Matthew 28:18-20**. This passage is referred to often as the "Great Commission". How would you define a commission? *{Commission defined by dictionary.com: (n.) an authoritative order, charge, or directions; authority granted for a particular action of function; a group of persons authoritatively charged with particular functions; (v.) to authorize, to send on a mission}* Do you believe any of these definitions apply to this passage? How?

• **SEEK:** So let's take a look at this from a different angle. Describe an area of your life in which you hold responsibility to accomplish something (work, relationship, parenting.....) Do you believe that you are given or maintain that responsibility because someone believes that you are able to or not so much? Would you say that someone would be crazy to give you responsibility ...a. k. a. commission you.....to do something important if they did not believe that you can do it? Why?

• **TELL:** With that being said do you believe that Jesus would have "commissioned" us as his followers to **GO** and make disciples if he did not believe that we could or that we were not worthy to do so? **SEGUE:** Hold that thought and let's watch this video link and then come back to discuss this further. (*Utilize the video link in Thinking Outside the Box*)

• **SEEK:** *Returning point from SEGUE* What are your thoughts on the Dust video that we just watched? How does this understanding change the way that you view our "commission" by Jesus to **GO** and make disciples? (*Resource Opportunity- You can utilize the letter from The Jordan Management Consultants here to reinforce the lacking nature of the disciples.*)

Discussion Generators

• **SEEK:** Read **1 Corinthians 1:26-29**. We looked at the disciples and their lack of qualifications and now here in Paul's letter to the church in Corinth we see that Jesus was and is continuing His radical calling of the misfits and the nobodies. What message do you think Jesus was sending us by not choosing the best of the best?

• **SEEK:** Do you know of any historical figures in the Bible that felt unworthy and unable to follow God's calling or request of them? Who? In what way? What was the outcome? (Ideas: Abraham, Moses, Gideon, Elijah, Saul, David, Jeremiah, Jonah, Peter.....) What happened when they fully leaned on God and what happened when they didn't?

• **SEEK:** How big of a role do your insecurities play in our lives? Do they ever affect your faith?

• **SEEK:** According to **James 1:22** faith in Christ is an active faith. On Sunday, Sean used a metaphor of the church in relation to an airport. That metaphor defined an airport as a facility sending you to another place, not keeping you inside it. How do you see that metaphor applying to us "the church" and the "Great Commission"?

• **SEEK:** First, what is the **GO** that we need to do in relation to this metaphor? What does **GO** and make disciples look like? Is it a cookie cutter method that happens the same every time? Is there a set time, a set place, and a set of procedural guidelines? Secondly, how will that help us to allow God to help us overcome our insecurities?

• **SEEK:** What is something that you with God's help can do this week to put that **GO** into motion?and how can we support and encourage one another to actually make that **GO** happen?

Thought and Prayer: It is approximately 58 A.D. Waiting to hear his fate, Paul sits in a prison in Rome under the reign of the maniacal, Christian hating Emperor Nero. While in prison, Paul writes a letter to the church in Philippi and in that letter he writes the familiar Philippians 4:12 & 13.

Lord, I am seeking you and calling out to you so that I may find the certainty of faith and the peace of that faith that Paul understood and lived in you. I am not worthy on my own, but I am worthy because of your Son! Thank you, Lord!

Thinking Outside the Box

SEGUE: Go to <http://tinyurl.com/mc3Share> to watch the fifteen minute Nooma video "Dust". In this video, Rob talks about the historical background of what it took in Biblical times to be a disciple of a rabbi and how that correlates to the disciples of Christ at the time of His ministry here on earth as well as us as His disciples today. Once you have watched this video, move back into the discussion questions as provided unless the Spirit is leading another way and then