

For the week of October 15-21, 2017

Based on the Panel Discussion from October 15

The Great Commission

Best Way to Prepare for Your Group? Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, the sermon gets modified right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

[Format for the Evening]

WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

KEY PASSAGE: *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” –Matthew 28:18-20*

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Make Disciples

The command in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 is to “make disciples.” It is not enough to just share our faith, we must also grow in maturity together in fellowship. This is biblical discipleship: getting into someone's world and exemplifying what it is to follow Christ. Once a person comes to faith in Jesus, they must learn as we have to grow in their relationship with Him and others, and the best way to do that is by spending time learning from God's Word alone and together. Discipleship requires relationship, fellowship, community, teaching, and laboring at something together. It takes time, it requires commitment. And the basis of it all must be love for God, and love for others (1 John 4:7-11).

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. What are some examples of times God has used others to disciple you?
2. Discipleship is not only for the international mission field. Without sharing specifics, discuss some ways the Lord has used you to disciple others. Consider siblings, children, friends, co-workers.
3. Can you think of some opportunities for discipleship that have already been put in your life but have yet to be cultivated? Spend some time discussing techniques for opening doors that you may not have yet thought of.

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: All Nations

In verse 19 we are told very clearly to go to “all nations.” The word used for nations translates to “ethnicities.” That means this is referring to not just every country in the world, but all people. He will send people to the farthest corner of the world, and to our own backyard. Because we love God, we have to be ready. Loving God inherently includes a willingness to be led by Him. He may lead us to love people we don't naturally love. He may ask us to give up things that we like for them to know God. He may even ask us to leave the place we know to be sent somewhere new. This should be the normal outflow of a healthy church body. A local church that excels in love and discipleship naturally wants to export this outside of its existing reach.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. For each of us, God “sent” someone into our lives to reach us with the Gospel. Briefly share your experience in this area.
2. Discuss ways that you could use your current social circle (work, family, social media, etc.) to expand the reach of the Gospel.
3. Have you ever felt the Lord leading you in a new way to reach out locally or internationally? Discuss this as a group, and pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance moving forward.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY:

Please pray that God would show believers how to live like Jesus, empowered by the leading of the Holy Spirit so that their divinely inspired and life-changing love reveals God to the world around them. Pray that the lives of the family members at Calvary Boise glorify God and draw others into His Kingdom. Pray that we will be actively engaged in pursuing revival.

TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

***Note:** Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at tucker@ccboise.org with your insight.*

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

“And I will pour on the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace, and supplication.” –Zechariah 12:10

Every new Pentecost—every new working of the Holy Spirit in the life of God’s people—has had its time of preparation, supplication and waiting for the enduement, or filling up, of God’s power. Sometimes the time of tarrying has been lengthened from “ten days” to as many weeks, months, or even years; but never has there been an outpouring of the Divine Spirit from God, without a previous outpouring of the human spirit toward God. To support this statement we need only look to the long and effective history of missions. God’s power on the mission field covers the ages. Yet every missionary biography, from those of Elliot and Edwards, Brainerd and Carey, to Livingstone and Burns, Hudson Taylor and John E. Clough, tells the same story: prayer has been the preparation for every new triumph; and so, if greater triumphs and successes lie before us, more fervent and faithful praying must be their forerunner and herald! –A. T. Pierson

About the Author: Arthur Tappan Pierson was an American Presbyterian pastor who gained a following in England and Scotland for his fundamentalist writings. A consulting editor for the original *Scofield Reference Bible*, he was friends with C.I. Scofield, D.L. Moody, and George Muller. His biography of Muller, *George Muller of Bristol* was among his 50 published books. He also preached over 13,000 sermons and was a pioneer in foreign missions. He lived from 1837 until 1911.

Our Community Life Group:

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Prayer Requests for Our International Missions

- Please pray for Commissioned Week. The goal is to ignite the missional flame in our body. Please pray for the practical working of the Holy Spirit. Pray that the body is exhorted and encouraged and that Christ is glorified.
- Pray for Saul and Angelica Alvarez, ministering in Tepic, Mexico. As a result of recent street evangelism, two new men recently visited their men’s study. Please pray for Armando and Hugo, that they would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, and get plugged in to fellowship. Pray also for Erica, a woman who has recently begun attending weekend services. Pray for also for Angelica as she begins a new ladies’ Bible study.

Prayer Requests for our Local Ministry

- Pray for our Latino ministry, as they bring God’s love to the Spanish-speaking community in our Valley. Pray that God would anoint their efforts, and that many would be saved.
- Pray for this year’s participants in 52.4 (formerly Run 4 Heaven’s Gate) as they continue their half-marathons to raise funds for the precious kids in India. Pray for health and endurance for each one involved, and for continuing fruit from this ministry.