

## Matthew 28:16-20

### Context

Our passage from today is the ending of Matthew's Gospel. It comes on the heels of Jesus' resurrection and appearance to Mary Magdalene and the "other" Mary earlier in the chapter. In Matthew's narration, it is Jesus' male disciples' first encounter with him since his death. As we read, notice how they respond to seeing Jesus. As you listen to Jesus' words to them, consider his words as addressed not only to his First Century followers but also as words meant for us today.

### Hearing

- Before we dive in, what are some big themes that stand out to you as significant in this passage? Or from the sermon this past weekend?
- Look at v 17 again, and notice that upon seeing him alive, Jesus' disciples worshiped him. It's from this context of worship that they are then told to go out and make disciples (i.e. given a mission.) What is the relationship between worship and mission? What's at risk if we seek to make disciples apart from worship? Have you ever experienced that?
- In vv 19-20, Jesus tells us to make disciples and spells out what that means: baptizing and teaching them to obey his teaching. Why are both important? What is the relationship between baptism and obedience (i.e., following Jesus)? How has your baptism enabled you to obey God in ways beyond your natural ability? How can we as a LG encourage one another to follow Jesus more fully?
- The directive to the disciples also applies to us. We are also called to make disciples of all people. If someone asked you to disciple them, how would you respond? Would you feel qualified? Why or why not? Taking into account the discussion from the previous questions, where would you start? What steps would you take?

### Obeying (application)

- Take some time this week and worship Jesus. As you do, reflect on your answer to the previous question. *If you don't feel qualified* to disciple someone, ask God to help you identify why and what you can do to change that. Then, take the first step. *If you do feel qualified*, ask God who He is calling you to disciple. Remember, Jesus is already working in their lives, so just ask the Spirit how you can partner with him in that person's discipleship journey. (Ex: share your testimony with them, invite them to worship, or urge them to go deeper in their obedience.)