



“Mission Impossible”

Matthew 28:16-20

Icebreaker:

Share a “wonder” that you find in the Thanksgiving season.

The Study:

As a new year draws closer, and a season of rest and renewal beckons with Advent and Christmas, it’s important to “*find the wonder*”, and remind ourselves why following and knowing Jesus Christ isn’t just good news, but the best news possible. The “Great Commission” in Matthew 28:16-20 answers two important questions: *How do I prepare my heart so that the Lord can use me?* And: *How does the Lord want to use me?*



How Do I Prepare My Heart So That The Lord Can Use Me?

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’” – vss. 16-18

1. Here the disciples are with Jesus after the resurrection. Why in the world were some of them still having doubts?

2. What are some areas of the Christian life where you have struggled with doubts, or where you have questioned God?

3. You’re not alone. What questions did people ask God in the Bible?
Genesis 18:24-25

Psalms 22:1 (cf. Matthew 27:46)

Habakkuk 1:13

4. Discuss the following quote by Christian apologist Paul Gould in his book, “Cultural Apologetics”. What is Gould saying?

“Given God’s desire for humans to flourish in a loving relationship with him, we would expect the evidence for God to be widely available. At the same time, since God wants the relationship that humans enjoy with him to be freely accepted, evidence for his existence would also be easily resistible.”

5. Pastor Bear mentioned three areas of evidence which have strengthened his faith the most. Discuss these. What are some of other areas of study that had helped you the most in your faith?

Creation

The Word of God (the Bible)

Jesus himself (the 6’Ws)

6. Jesus said, *“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me.”* Working through our doubts allow us to worship Jesus fully, and also bow and submit to his authority.

We mentioned in the teaching that sometimes when we struggle with accepting something Jesus has said, or the Bible teaches (like God’s sexual boundaries), our problem is not a sin problem, or a temptation problem, it’s an *authority* problem. What do we mean by this? And how do we work through this?

How Does The Lord Want To Use 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.” – vss.19-20

7. In the original Greek, there is one command that Jesus gives in these verses, and the other verbs support that command. So write it out in a chart.

The Command

The Supporting Actions

8. What do you think Jesus is asking us to do in giving us this command? Share your thoughts.

9. Bridgeway’s new Mission Statement is, *“Making disciples, connecting communities, growing the body of Christ”*. Using these three categories as headings, brainstorm a bit. Come up with 2 or 3 specific actions that we can do as a church in 2021 to fulfill these three areas.

Make Disciples

Connect Communities

Grow The Body Of Christ

If you are willing, come up with a master list and share these with Pastor Bear or the Leadership Team. We want to hear your ideas!

Prayer Requests

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