CONVERSATION GUIDE:

Are you good at communicating your expectations of others? How can you tell when your words have been clear and effectively communicated? (What happens?)

READ Matthew 28:16-20. As you read, circle or underline every verb.

DISCUSS
1. Summarize each of the five verses. What is important in each verse? (e.g. What is the significance of Galilee?)

2. Where does Jesus tell the disciples to meet him in verse 10? Where are they according to verse 16? What is the significance?

3. According to Matthew 4:19, approximately 3 years earlier, what did Jesus tell the disciples they would do? How does Matthew 28 fulfill his promise to them?

4. Does Jesus have authority in your life? If this truth were alive in you, how would you be different? (e.g. How could God transform your heart, thinking, habits, relationships?)

APPLY
1. What does this passage reveal about God’s heart for the people and world around you? (e.g. family, neighbors, workplace, the city of Houston)

2. Jesus has all authority. Does this fact persuade you to be bold and share the gospel? Describe the uncertainties you have.

3. What is one step you can take to live according to “Go…Baptize…Teach” this week?

The mountain. Jesus must have named a certain mountain to them, probably the night before he suffered, when he said, “But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” Which mountain can only be conjectured - the Mount of the Beatitudes or Mount Tabor. The former is much more probable, due to its nearness to the Sea of Tiberias, which John names in his gospel and tells us that Jesus met and dined with seven of them.

I am with you. Matthew’s Gospel begins with the prophecy that the Savior’s name would be “Emmanuel, God with us,” and it ends with Jesus’ promise to be with his disciples forever. Jesus has not commissioned us to an impossible responsibility nor left us to do it on our own. He is with us on our journey of discipleship. He is with us as we live in obedience to his commission.

Go…baptize…teach. These words are participles modifying the imperative verb “make disciples.” The first participle (πορευθέντες, “Go”) fits the typical structural pattern for the attendant circumstance participle and thus picks up the mood from the main verb (μαθητεύσατε, “make disciples”). Semantically this means that the action of “going” is commanded, just as “making disciples” is. Therefore, the phrasology, “As you go, make disciples.”

Jesus reaffirms his original calling of the disciples, commissioning them to go into all the world fishing for men, making disciples of all nations.

Worldwide mission is the expected task for those who know the authority of Jesus, those who know Jesus as King. “If you love me, you will obey my commands.”

1 Matthew 26:32, 14:28;
2 Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset and David Brown, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible
3 John 21:1
4 Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 7:14, 8:8-10
5 John 14:15, 23
ADDITIONAL NOTES THIS WEEK:

Why does Jesus refer to his absolute and universal authority now? As he stands before them, after his resurrection, isn’t his power obvious? Jesus does so to motivate and equip his disciples for global mission.

When Jesus called the disciples to follow him, his call had a specific aim: ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’6 Fast forward three years, after his resurrection, he said to his disciples ‘As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’7

The Father sent his Son into the world:
- to glorify and reveal God8
- to seek and to save the lost9
- to give his life a ransom for many10

The first, Jesus did fully and perfectly, and commands us to follow him in this purpose of making God known. The second he did in his earthly life; he trusts us to tell others about him as the one who seeks and saves. The last of these is the exclusive responsibility of Jesus. Christians might die because they are involved in the work of the kingdom, but their deaths are never redemptive.

READ
The foundation of this commission is the total and absolute authority of Jesus. This “all authority” of Matthew reflects John’s testimony concerning Jesus’ authority:

- Authority over life – John 5:21
- All judgment has been entrusted to him - 5:22, 27
- Authority over death - 11:25
- Jesus’ authority over his own life and death - 10:18
- Authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those the Father has given him - 17:2

As we study the bible, we see the authority of Jesus over the Law and the Sabbath, over nature, over evil spirits, in his teaching, over death, over physics, and over people. **Jesus has absolute authority.** He has both power (*dunamis*, physical strength) and authority (*exousia*, legal power). Jesus is the ultimate authority to whom they are all accountable and to whom they will one day bow in unquestioned acknowledgement.11

Therefore go …
- Make disciples of all nations,
- Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- Teach them to obey everything Jesus commands.

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring his good news to others.12

PRAY
**For your Heart:** Ask God to search your heart for hidden darkness, and then confess it freely as a loved, forgiven, adopted child.

**For our Church:** Pray for our church to be a bright light, reflecting back to God his own glory in our relationships that cross social, racial, and economic boundaries. Pray that our stewardship decisions, our mercy and justice ministries, our care for the lonely, injured and sick among us, would reflect God’s glory and not our own.

**For our City:** Pray that Christians all over the city will share with others the gospel of Jesus and that those who don’t know Jesus would be drawn out of darkness into the light and believe so that they might have life in his name.

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6 Matthew 4:19
7 John 20:21
8 John 1:18, 17:4
9 Luke 19:10; 1 John 4:14
10 Mark 10:45
11 Philippians 2:10,11
12 Romans 10:15