

Title: It's Time...To Have a Passion for the Great Commission of Jesus Christ

Date: March 7, 2010



1. Opening Discussion

- a. What was your favorite story as a child? As an adult, what is your favorite book or movie (other than the Bible)? What have these stories taught you about life? About faith? When you read a great book or see a wonderful movie, what do you usually do?
- b. Why do you think that people don't attend Sunday School? Why do you think that people don't practice evangelism/outreach?
- c. Do you think the traditional church approaches to evangelism (i.e. revivals, weekly visitation, program-based, door-to-door) will work in today's culture? Why or why not? If not, what approaches for sharing the greatest story of all might work better?

2. A Consistent God

- a. "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12: 2-3
- b. To whom did God speak these words? When did God speak these words?
- c. What promise does God make? What underlying expectation or requirement do you see in this promise?
- d. In what ways has God blessed you and your family? How are you using God's blessing to bless those around you and around the world?

3. Our Scripture Passages for Today:

Reference	Time Frame	Scripture
Matthew 28: 16-20	After Jesus' death and resurrection and just before his ascension.	¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Acts 1: 6-11	After Jesus' death and resurrection and just before his ascension.	⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."
Luke 9: 1-6	During Jesus' ministry probably in Galilee near	¹ When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

	Capernaum when he sent out the 12 disciples. Later in Luke, he sends out 72 followers.	³ He told them: "Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. ⁴ Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. ⁵ If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them." ⁶ So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.
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a. What are some common themes, principles, or ideas that you see in each of these passages?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____
- iv. _____
- v. _____
- vi. _____

b. How do you think that Jesus’ instructions apply to us today?

c. Some practical suggestions for developing a passion to share the Gospel:

- i. Nurture your own relationship to Jesus.
- ii. Form spiritual friendships.
- iii. Practice hospitality.
- iv. Become involved in at least one “hands-on” ministry that addresses a social or human need.
- v. Get to know at least one person of a different color, culture, or class than yourself.
- vi. Respond to the inner urging of the Spirit.
- vii. Don’t be ashamed of your story. Take time to think about and write out your personal story.



d. Closing Discussion

- i. Brainstorm ways you can grow using each of these practical suggestions.
- ii. What are you personally willing to do to become more intentional in your Christian witness?
- iii. How can our church help its people become more intentional in being a strong witness for Christ in your community? What is our congregation’s story and how can we share it with others?
- iv. How can your group or Bible study class encourage one another to become more of an intentional witness for Christ in your community?

e. Concluding Thought: “We can tell our story, and we should not be ashamed of it. It may not be as dramatic as another story, but if it is authentic, it is our story.”

