



Sermon Discussion Guide
The Way Forward
Sunday, June 20, 2021
Based on the Panel's Message

Introduction

In Sunday's message we spent time looking at what God says about what it means to follow Jesus right here in the South Bay. We heard from a few leaders on staff who shared different bible verses that help us know that we're moving in the direction God wants us to go. If you haven't watched the sermon yet, you can go to the link below and watch it before moving on to the questions.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. What are the "arrows" in your own life that you follow that let you know you are going in the right direction in life?

Hear God's Story

2. Read Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus tells His followers to make disciples of all nations, baptize people, and to teach people to obey His teachings. Think about how you define yourself, and how you view your life's larger purpose. How does this teaching of Jesus play into those?
3. Read Deuteronomy 6:5-9. The thrust of what Moses is saying here is to not "compartmentalize" our faith in our life; rather, faith should be in all we do. What's one area in your life that you could de-compartmentalize and bring God into more?
4. Read Acts 2:42-47. Group question: How can we live this out better together?
5. Read 1 John 3:18 and John 13:35. In the message we learned that we need to move past seeing love as just a feeling, to seeing it as a choice and a verb. What are your thoughts about that coupled with the verses we just read?
6. Now think back on the five sections of Scripture we just read together and applied to our lives. What does all of this together tell us about the heart of God, and what He wants from us?
7. How does all of this play into living a life well-lived?

Create a New Story

8. How can you tweak your schedule this week to better join God in His larger mission?

Further Studies: Contemplating the Great Commission

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to 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."

-Jesus, God of Everything, AD 29-30ish

"In the last resort, we engage in evangelism today not because we want to or because we choose to or because we like to, but because we have been told to 'go,' to 'preach,' to 'make disciples,' and that is enough for us."

-John Stott, Theologian, AD 1966

"The church's unfinished task is to keep going out into the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all people. Yes, we are to help the poor, speak up for the oppressed, visit those in prison, defend the defenceless, but all that is at best only part of the task. We are also to declare to people, locally and globally, that God has come to us in Jesus, Israel's Messiah, to offer us the forgiveness of sins. Jesus sends us into the street corners, the slums, the sweatshops, the schools, the suburbs, to invite people to take the yoke of Jesus upon them, to discover that our master is good, and that his love endures forever. When Jesus says 'Go!' we should not ask 'Why?' but 'Where, my lord?'"

-N.T. Wright, Theologian, AD 2019

Discuss

1. What challenges you the most about the above quotes by Stott and Wright?
2. Note the progression of years in the above quotes. Now imagine you were next up to quote. What would you say right now in your current stage of life and relationship with God about Jesus' Great Commission?
3. Spend time in prayer now as a group highlighting two movements:
 - a. Praise to God that He allows us to participate in what He's doing in the world.
 - b. A petition that He gives us the heart, wisdom, and courage to move forward with Him in a way that brings Him glory.

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

4. For those who have young children at home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com