

# **Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Jan 28, 2018**

**“Persons of Interest” Pastor Temple 8:15 & 10:55, Pastor Hook 9:30**

## **Matthew 28: 16-20**

**<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

**“God uses people to form people. That is why what happens between you and another person is never merely human-to-human interaction- the Spirit longs to be powerfully at work in every encounter.”**

**By John Ortberg, *The Me I Want To Be***

## **Acts 1:8**

**<sup>8</sup> 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.”**

**Leader’s Tip:** Please discuss the “Getting Started” questions below with the group and then read aloud the scriptures in the left margin. As you go through the discussion questions below, know that it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

### **Getting Started (10-15 min)**

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regards to the witness or application points from the last meeting that you would like to share?
- In the TV show *Persons of Interest*, the character played by Jim Caviezel, knew the name of a person but didn’t know if it was a good person needing rescue or a person intending evil who should be stopped and did his best for the good of all. How does attempting to live out the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20) place us in a similar role? How is it different?
- **Review the Sermon (20 min)**
  - If you were tasked to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
  - While verse 17 mentions “doubters” were present, Jesus did not address their doubt but gave them a great task. Verses 19-20 have been called “The Great Commission,” the last will and testament of Jesus Christ and His marching orders for the church. How might these verses speak to those who feel unqualified in sharing their faith with others?
  - While God could have shared the gospel of Christ through supernatural means written across the sky, He has chosen to use people to share it. Why do you think that is?
  - How do you respond to the Ortberg quote in the margin?
  - Why is the authority that Jesus claims at the beginning of the Great Commission so important in fulfilling it?
  - A similar commission is given by Jesus in Acts 1:8. How do you see this as different or complementary to Matthew 28?

***Tell It Well*, by John T. Seamands  
The Three C's needed for the Great  
Commission (not the Great Omission):**

- **The Conviction that Jesus is Lord and Savior**
- **The Concern for the spiritual needs of people**
- **The Consecration of resources**

**Personalize the Sermon (20 min)**

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- Some have viewed historic evangelization efforts of missionaries critically as being “colonialist” and “proselytizing.” Yet, sociologist John Woodbury in his persistent studies of missionary history in 2014, found a strong correlation between democracy and Protestantism in the nations of the world as well as positive metrics of national stability and development compared to other countries in the region. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

**Apply the Sermon (15 min)**

- The call to spread the good news of Christ to the world, demonstrates God's love such that everyone is a “person of interest.” This is one of three ingredients J.T. Seamands reference in the margin. Do you agree with these three essentials listed for obedience to the Great Commission? Why or why not?
- What is your sense of the presence of “The Three C's” in our lives?
- Which of these three options might be emphasized in your discipleship this week?

**Witness & Prayer Concerns From The Group, (15 min)**

- We have received the gospel as a result of the influence of someone else's Christian witness. How are we in turn influencing someone else in Christian influence?
- What prayer concerns or joys would you share with your group this week?