

Discipleship in the Great Commission

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Watch or read first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family or homeschool use, an adult may choose a shorter section and accept spoken answers.

The summary is a reading aid. Test the teaching's explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

[Open the teaching](#)

Teaching summary

This teaching examines what Yeshua intended in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20. It notes that the familiar call to go and make disciples can be reduced to introducing people to the gospel and then moving on. The teaching affirms that the whole gospel must be taught to the nations and emphasizes the continuing work of helping believers observe all that Yeshua commanded. The passage also speaks of baptizing and includes Yeshua's promise to remain with his disciples. This guide focuses on the teaching's central concern: ongoing discipleship as believers learn to live faithfully in response to YHWH's grace.

The teaching focuses on the phrase "make disciples" in Matthew 28:19. The Greek verb *mathēteuō* (Strong's G3100) refers here to making disciples; it is related to the noun *mathētēs* (Strong's G3101), meaning a learner or disciple. The teaching's emphasis is the continuing work of teaching and learning, rather than treating going as the whole commission. It concludes that making disciples of Yeshua means helping people follow his teaching and example. In the teaching's interpretation, this includes learning the Torah in its true form, spirit, and intent and living out the Word as Yeshua did.

From there, the teaching explains what discipleship should and should not look like. It is not recruiting people to a denomination, teaching man-made rules and doctrines, or gathering disciples around a human teacher. Mentoring can be part of discipleship, but the goal must always be to point people to the Word and to Messiah's example. Discipling someone is described as coming alongside that person and helping him or her learn and grow in the Torah, the Word of YHWH. This includes lovingly addressing sin, helping with accountability to the Word, guiding questions back to Scripture, and living as an example of what it looks like to walk out the Torah. Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 4:16-17 and 11:1 are used to show that even when others imitate a person, the ultimate direction must be toward Messiah: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

The teaching next returns to Matthew 28:20, where Yeshua says to teach the nations to observe all that he commanded. To identify what those commands were, it surveys several of Yeshua's teachings. Matthew 5:17-19 is presented as Yeshua affirming the Law and saying that those who keep and teach the commandments will be called great in the kingdom. Matthew 7:21-23 connects entering the kingdom with doing the Father's will and warns against lawlessness. Mark 7:8-9 contrasts the commandments of God with the traditions of men. In Mark 10:17-22, Yeshua first points the rich young man to God's commandments and then calls him to follow him. Revelation 12:17 is brought alongside this as a picture of those who keep God's commandments and have the

testimony of Yeshua. Luke 17:10 emphasizes doing what has been commanded, and John 14:15 connects love for Yeshua with keeping his commandments.

Finally, the teaching argues that Yeshua's commandments were the Father's commandments because he spoke and acted according to the Father, citing John 5:19, John 8:28, and John 12:49. The Great Commission therefore calls believers to teach the world to obey the Father, and obedience is presented as an expression of love for Yeshua and for God, also reflected in 1 John 5:3. The lesson stresses that the Great Commission was given after Yeshua was resurrected, so it cannot reasonably be used to claim that the Torah had ended with his death. It concludes that discipleship is an ongoing work of helping new believers learn and study the Torah so that they continue to learn the Father and his ways. The often overlooked part of the Great Commission is not merely going, but making disciples and teaching them all that Messiah commanded - the Torah, the Instructions of the Father.

Summary points

- The Great Commission is more than introducing someone to the gospel and then moving on; it calls believers to make disciples.
- The teaching emphasizes making disciples as the central task in Matthew 28:19-20, with going, baptizing, and teaching in view.
- The Greek word *mathēteuō* describes becoming or making a disciple by teaching someone to follow another's precepts and instructions.
- Making disciples of Yeshua means teaching people to follow what he taught and to live out the Word as he did.
- Discipleship must point people to the Word of YHWH and Messiah rather than to man-made rules, denominations, or human teachers.
- Coming alongside a disciple includes helping that person grow in Torah, return to Scripture, receive loving accountability, and see a living example of obedience.
- Matthew 28:20 explains the work of discipleship as teaching the nations to observe all that Yeshua commanded.
- The teaching uses Yeshua's words in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to connect his commands with the Father's commandments and Torah.
- Obedience to the Father's commandments is presented as an expression of love for Yeshua and for God.
- Because the Great Commission was given after Yeshua's resurrection, the teaching concludes that new believers are still to learn the Torah, the Instructions of the Father.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. In Matthew 28:19, the teaching emphasizes the command to _____ of all nations.
2. The Greek word used for "make disciples" is _____ (Strong's G3100).
3. Discipling someone is described as coming alongside that person and helping him or her learn and grow in the _____, the Word of YHWH.
4. Matthew 28:20 says disciples are to be taught to observe all that Yeshua _____.
5. Yeshua said, "If you love Me, you will keep My _____."
6. The teaching concludes that the Great Commission sends believers to teach the world to obey the _____.

Challenging

1. The verb mathēteuō is related to the noun _____ (Strong's G3101), meaning a learner or disciple.
2. In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul says, "Be imitators of me, as I am of _____."
3. According to Matthew 5:19, the one who keeps and teaches the commandments will be called _____ in the kingdom of heaven.
4. Mark 7:8-9 contrasts the commandment of God with the _____ of men.
5. Revelation 12:17 describes those opposed by the Adversary as keeping the commandments of God and having the _____ of Yeshua.
6. The teaching emphasizes that the Great Commission was given after Yeshua was _____.

Group discussion

Discuss with respect, support answers from the passages, and allow time to think. Use the lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. How does the teaching's focus on "make disciples" rather than simply "go" change the way the Great Commission should be understood?

2. What does the definition of mathēteuō contribute to the teaching's explanation of what a disciple is and what making disciples requires?

3. Why does the teaching insist that discipleship point people back to the Word and Messiah rather than to a denomination, human teacher, or man-made doctrine?

4. How do the passages from Matthew 5, Matthew 7, Mark 7, Mark 10, Luke 17, and John 14 work together in the teaching's argument about what Yeshua commanded?

5. Why is the fact that the Great Commission was given after Yeshua's resurrection important to the teaching's conclusion about the Torah?

6. According to the teaching, what responsibilities does a person have when coming alongside someone as a disciple, and how can those responsibilities keep the focus on Yeshua rather than on the mentor?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching; references help you check the wording and context. Accept equivalent wording where appropriate.

Basic

1. make disciples

Matthew 28:19; teaching emphasis

2. mathēteuō (also: matheteuo)

Teaching section What Is Discipleship; G3100

3. Torah

Teaching section What Is Discipleship

4. commanded

Matthew 28:20

5. commandments (also: commands)

John 14:15

6. Father

Teaching conclusion

Challenging

1. mathētēs (also: mathetes)

Teaching section What Is Discipleship; G3101

2. Christ (also: Messiah)

1 Corinthians 11:1

3. great

Matthew 5:19

4. tradition (also: traditions)

Mark 7:8-9

5. testimony

Revelation 12:17

6. resurrected (also: raised, raised from the dead)

Teaching conclusion; Matthew 28 context

Facilitator notes

These are suggested directions for discussion, not a required script or a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passage and consider a faithful practical response.

1. The teaching shifts attention from a one-time introduction to Messiah toward sustained learning and practice. Making disciples includes helping people observe Yeshua's instructions, rather than assuming an initial profession of faith completes the work of discipleship.

Matthew 28:19-20; What Is Discipleship

2. Mathêteuō refers here to making disciples, and the related noun mathētēs names a learner or disciple. The teaching therefore emphasizes instruction joined to practice: helping people learn Yeshua's teaching and follow his example in their lives.

Matthew 28:19-20; What Is Discipleship

3. A mentor serves the learner by directing attention to Scripture and Messiah, not by demanding personal loyalty or elevating traditions over YHWH's instruction. Paul permits imitation insofar as his example leads others toward Messiah.

1 Corinthians 4:16-17; 11:1

4. The teaching sees a consistent call to honor YHWH's commandments, reject traditions that displace them, do the Father's will, and follow Yeshua. Love and obedience belong together. These passages describe discipleship; commandment-keeping does not earn salvation.

Matthew 5:17-19; 7:21-23; Mark 7:8-9; 10:17-22; Luke 17:10; John 14:15

5. The commission follows the resurrection and still directs disciples to teach what Yeshua commanded. The teaching takes this continuity, together with his earlier affirmation of the commandments, as evidence that his death did not end Torah instruction for disciples.

Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 5:17-19

6. Come alongside the learner, answer questions from Scripture, address sin lovingly, encourage accountability, and model obedience. Admit a mentor's limits and keep returning to Yeshua's example so growth produces mature faith rather than dependence on a human teacher.

1 Corinthians 11:1; What Is Discipleship

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages you studied. What will you do, and when will you revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.