



**Setting a Foundation: Missions
Why, How, and When**



Week 1

Why: Biblical Foundations

Summary: This week's lesson will help you and your group understand the Biblical foundation of why Christians share the Gospel using **three well-known bodies** of scripture. Our hope is that your group can dive deep into the scriptures and pull out a foundation of the "why" built upon the commission of Christ, the authority of the Spirit, and the source of our faith.

Structure of this lesson:

You are **free** to teach this lesson however you'd like. You can use the videos. You can walk through the lesson yourself. However you choose to lead your group, we want this lesson to be as successful for your group as possible. This lesson will focus on key scriptures, but **focus on DISCUSSING what these verses actually say**. Your discussion will set the foundation for the rest of the study, so we've provided spaces to take notes of **significant or "ah ha" moments** from group members to reference in the weeks to come.

Leader Tips

- This week is **light on content** so you can be **heavy on conversation**.
- Try to **keep the conversation personal**, ask your group to think through this text as it relates to their own lives.

A Commission

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" Matt. 28:18-20

Take Note:

1. "**All** Authority has been given to me, **therefore go...** "
Jesus is commissioning the 11 to do certain things.
Commissioning is an investment of authority to carry out a task.
2. There is an **order to the process**: go, make disciples, baptize, teach to obey.
Disciples aren't born, and they don't grow on trees.
There's an intentional process to become a believer and to mature as one.
3. Christ is the **means and the end** of the commission.
Christ gives us tasks to complete; tasks that will make him known in the world; tasks that will be completed because he is with us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the most important part of the Great Commission **to me**?
2. What is the responsibility of **believers** as revealed in this scripture?
3. Have I learned anything new about the Great Commission today?

Leader Tips

- Try to **keep the conversation personal**, ask your group to think through this text as it relates to their own lives.
- The focus of this discussion **is not to fulfill** the Great Commission. Set the foundation for **what it is** and **why it matters**.

Notes

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Leader Tips

- Try to **keep the conversation personal**.
- "Witness" could be hard to describe. **Here's a short 4.5-minute video to help.**



Take Note:

1. The Power to do this is **not from us**; it's from God. We are not effective witnesses without the Spirit.
2. Help the group define **witness**.

A witness is someone who sees or experiences something important but has to share about it to **be a witness**.

3. Location and Sustaining Witness: **Local, Regional, Global witness.**

Christ states that we are called to be witnesses throughout the whole earth, and that witness isn't progressive. Meaning, that it's not "here, then there, and finally over there" it's more "here, there, and everywhere." We are called to be witnesses everywhere we are, whenever we happen to be there. When we do leave, the hope is that we have left a community of witnesses behind.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the most important part of Acts 1:8 **to me**?
2. What is the responsibility of **believers** as revealed in this scripture?
3. Have I learned anything new about **being a witness** from our discussion?

Notes

Source of Faith

“For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’ But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our message?’ So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:13-17

Take Note:

1. Paul is arguing that God is being faithful to Israel (and the world) by the **preaching of the gospel**.

God's plan of salvation is revealed in the Gospel, by continuing to proclaim that message the disciples of Christ are proving God as faithful.

2. Paul **defines the ends** and then **defines the process**.

Salvation comes by **calling** on the Lord, which requires **belief**, belief requires **hearing**, and that hearing requires **proclamation**, that proclamation requires someone to be **sent**.

3. The "**source**" of faith

"Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ" is Paul's way of saying that faith **only** comes through the word of Christ (the gospel). This then excludes "sources" like the law, heritage, behaviors, etc.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the most important part of the Romans 10: 13-17 **to me**?
2. What is the responsibility of **believers** as revealed in this scripture?
3. Do you have any thoughts on people coming to faith because someone shared the gospel with you?

Leader Tips

- Try to **keep the conversation personal**, ask your group to think through this text as it relates to their own lives.
- Paul's answer in verse 17 also addresses the "issue" that not everyone who hears the Gospel will not believe the Gospel. Paul - in a way - acknowledges the issue by focusing on the message heard (the Gospel) instead of the hearer. Paraphrasing here, Paul is saying "Even if some people won't believe, the Gospel is the only way to salvation, so we have to keep sharing it."

Notes