



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

Love Jesus, Live Sent – Vision – Oct 24, 2021

I. Starter Questions:

- What are the things you have loved the most about Henderson Hills?
- What excites you about the future of Henderson Hills?

II. Discussion of Scripture:

Context: After spending 40 days with His disciples, Jesus is nearing His ascension. These are His final words as Matthew recorded them.

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Commentary and Discussion Questions:

1. What is a disciple?
2. What is the “therefore” there for? To what does it link the rest of this passage? Why is that important?

The Great Commission—Matthew 28:16-20 (AMPC)

16Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17And when they saw Him, they worshiped *Him*; but some doubted [that it was really He]. 18Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority (all power of absolute rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age.”

“Make disciples,” is an imperative which connotes the idea of becoming one if you’re not, as well as the idea of becoming more like the ideal version of one; **If “make disciples” is a command from Jesus, why do we not obey it?**

3. If “make disciples” is a command from Jesus, why do we not obey it?
4. Does this imperatival participle translated “Go” help spur any intentionality for you?

First, the word translated “Go” in v.19 is a participle that functions imperatively (like a command). It is commonly rephrased “as you are going,” which is true since it is a present-tense participle (ongoing action), but the concept really entails leaving where you currently are to move to another location (even just a few feet). It brings with it the idea of intentionality.

Notice how many times the word “all” shows up in this passage: “all authority,” “all nations,” “all that I have commanded you,” and “all the days” (which is awkward in English, so we translate it “always”). Do you see what Jesus is doing here? He is making a comprehensive statement: *everything* is under His feet, *everyone* is the goal, every *aspect* of life is His, and every *day* He is with us.

5. How does this comprehensiveness intimidate you? encourage you?
6. How can Jesus’ full authority and constant presence spur you on to love and do good works in this disciple-making pursuit?
7. If each one of us is to obey all of Jesus’ commands, how do you see the rhythms or directions of your life changing at least one degree because of these commands?

So, to summarize Matthew 28:18–20: you must *go* in order to make disciples, you make disciples by evangelizing *and* by teaching those who believe how to obey, and you are *encouraged* to make disciples through Jesus’ comprehensive authority and eternal presence.

III. Explanation of Our New Vision:

Context: The Elder Council has spent the last two years praying, discussing, and discerning what we believe God’s direction is for our church in this next season. The aim of being a thoroughly biblical church remains, through which the Lord has built a solid foundation here over the last 57 years. One of the weaknesses we have discerned, though, is a lack of every-member involvement in Jesus’ mission of making disciples of all nations (see Scripture study above). Our desire is that this reoriented framework will equip every disciple to make disciples more effectively. You will hear more about this vision and associated mission and values this weekend and over the next few weeks, but the section below will introduce you and your group to the overarching theme of the new vision.

To glorify God by becoming a hub for an all-ages disciple-making movement

Commentary and Discussion Questions:

8. What are the purposes of the church?
Supreme purpose of the church is to glorify God and to love and worship God through Jesus Christ and make him know throughout the world.

Our number one priority is “to glorify God.” That is why we exist as individuals and as a church. We believe that building off the foundation that God has laid here and for which many individuals have sacrificed will open even more opportunities for us to glorify the Lord in new and unique ways.

The word “becoming” is intentional, because we are never finished until Jesus returns. Our goal, though, is to continue striving every day to align closer to the vision God has for us.

A “hub” is where everything centers and around which everything revolves. It supports and resources the rest. But a hub is also intended to have spokes, to spread out, to support further ventures.

The phrase “all-ages” refers to the fact that everyone is called to be involved in this disciple-making process. One never “ages out” of the system but instead has a huge responsibility to invest wisdom and resources in younger generations to carry this mission further. We can also begin training our children that disciple-making is part of what it means to follow Jesus—giving them examples of it from birth, training them in simple ways, and challenging them to pursue it as early as possible. Every age between is included as well. An intergenerational church is a beautiful picture of the family of God.

A “disciple-making movement” is a rapid and exponential increase in disciples making disciples. This movement spreads wide and deep to at least four generations and beyond. It does not neglect helping another disciple know and get grounded in the Bible (it leans heavily on it!), yet it also focuses on teaching believers how to obey the Bible and to make new disciples themselves.

We see this vision resulting in a few things:

- First, as every one of us pursues disciple-making, we believe that many lives will be transformed here in Edmond. Unbelievers will come to repentance and belief as we live sent to our neighbors, and believers will be shaped more into the image of Jesus as we teach them to obey. This local transformation will fuel greater local effect and will feed the pipeline toward going to other locations, as you will see next.
- Second, as intentional disciple-making becomes normalized, we believe that many more people will feel God’s calling to go to different areas of our *city*, our *nation*, and our *world*. This is where we will utilize our God-given resources, passions, and history to reproduce leaders through our experience with Ministries of Jesus, Celebrate Recovery, business-as-mission, and a residency program. We believe we can raise up collaborative teams of leaders who can take core groups of members—already trained to make disciples—to invest their lives to plant churches in the OKC metroplex, in the U.S., and in strategic cities around the world. We want to continue the chain that God began here in 1964 through First Baptist Church of Edmond.

Many investments will need to take place to see this vision come to fruition, and we will need to prioritize the equipping of the saints both to love Jesus more deeply and to live sent more faithfully.

9. How can you begin preparing now for the role that God has for you in His Kingdom purpose of disciple-making through Henderson Hills?

IV. Responding in Prayer:

- Pray that every one of us would take seriously Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations—including our own.
- Pray that our church would embrace the next season God has for us—building off the past and faithfully stewarding what He has given us today.