

Small Group and Personal Bible Study

Pastor Dennis Hadley

Memory Verse: John 20:21

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Discovery Bible Study Lesson

1. Read and then write down the passage found in **Matthew 28:19-20**
2. Next, rewrite **Matthew 28:19-20** using your own words
3. What do you discover in this passage?
4. What does Jesus want you to do to obey in response to this passage?

Daily Bible Reading

- Day 1: Matthew 9:36-38
- Day 2: John 20:19-23
- Day 3: Matthew 28:16-20
- Day 4: Mark 16:14-20
- Day 5: Acts 1:1-9

Lesson: Build His Kingdom

Read the very words of Jesus found in Matthew 9:36-38.

1. What is the passion of Jesus Christ?

Obviously Jesus has a passion for people. When He looks at the crowd He is moved with compassion. This wording indicates a very real love and sympathy for the people. He sees them like lost sheep without a Shepherd. A sheep without a shepherd in the wilderness will go hungry and fall prey to the wild beast. The Shepherd will care and feed the sheep. Jesus knew that people were lost and hungry without Him. But like dumb sheep, the people do not know where to go on their own. So the Shepherd must always take the initiative.

To read more on the Shepherd and His sheep: Matthew 18:10-14 and John Chapter 10.

2. What is Jesus telling us to do in this passage?

It is clear that He wants us to ask God to raise up people and send them into the harvest field. The Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. God has been in the business of raising up and sending out workers ever since Jesus gave us this request. Today is no different. Will you please join me in praying that God will raise up disciples from EVC that are deeply in love with Him and send them out into the harvest field. We sit in the middle of a desperate Evergreen community with so many who are helpless like sheep without a shepherd and yet we see God is working in our midst in miraculous ways and the harvest is plentiful. The first thing we must do is pray, ask the Lord of the Harvest!

Leaders: Ask your group to please pray for the EVC Ministry of Kids Club and the impact they are having on families, the school, and our community. Pray with thanksgiving for the amazing open doors at Dove Hill. Pray that as we seek God, He will show us what we must do next. Pray for the recent breakthroughs we are now beginning to see at Cadwallader as well and for God to show us what is next there.

Pray as well for our global ministry partners working around the world for the building of the Kingdom of God.

- Pray for the Horn of Africa – Dave Hunt, Aychiluhm Beyene, Aila Tasse and the other Church Planters who are planting nearly 6 churches a day in that region. God is moving in powerful ways to reach the lost sheep and all the exciting changes happening in that ministry.
- Pray for Hope Enterprises Ethiopia – Dr. Minas Huray, Zenebe Ayele and the 900 students we help in Dessie Ethiopia school with food, health care and education
- Pray for Hope Unlimited Brazil – Phillip Smith and the hundreds of street children's lives that are being changed daily
- Pray for OCI - Sammy & Shannon Mureithi in Kenya and the tribes they are reaching with food and education and Christian leaders they are training for church planting.
- Pray for Transform Asia Cambodia – Setan Lee and the Christian leaders they are training for church planting, the people they are feeding and the women being rescued from sex slavery.

- Pray for The Dalit Freedom Network India – The Dalit people and their children being rescued from severe poverty and hopelessness. Especially those ten students we sponsor from EVC. And for Annie Smith, our EVC liaison and short-term mission worker with India.
- Pray for InnVision Homeless Shelter – San Jose – Pray for our feeding program and workers on Thursday evening, our Bible Study and prayer discipleship program on Thursday evening and our Sunday worship. Pray especially for Steve Belarmino, Greg Perry, and Marcus Gomez as they bring the Word of Truth and hope to the homeless.
- Pray for the Senior Living Centers and the Worship and Bible studies going on at both Regency and Vintage. Pray for Hiram Catrett as He brings hope and love through the word of God.
- Pray for Kids Club – San Jose that God would open more doors to more schools and move more churches to bring the gospel back into our public schools. Pray for Bev Daily and Pam Wood and the Kids Club Consultants staff as they recruit and train up new churches and work with schools for new open doors. Pray also for our EVC teams at Dove Hill, Cadwallader, and Silver Oak. Especially for Juli Godsil and Pastor Galley Molina, our team leaders.
- Pray for Prison Sports Ministry and Don Smith as they go out to prisons to share the gospel through sports ministries.
- Pray for Kairos Outside Prison Ministry as they minister to the families of those who are in prison. Lift up Margaret Campisi our EVC liaison and Kairos worker.
- Pray for Threads of Love as they serve parents in love of premature babies through sowing of gowns. Pray for Renee Brogdon, our EVC liaison and worker.

Read again, the words of Jesus found in Matthew 28:18-20.

3. What is our part to according to His command?

We are called to go! We are called to make Disciples. We are called to all people. We are to baptize them as believers and followers of Jesus and teach them to obey His word. We as disciples are called to go! When I read this text I believe we are all called to go. Where we go may be different for each of us. Some of us are called to Africa while others are called to India. Some are called to Mexico and some are called to San Jose. Some are called into the public schools. Some are called to the homeless shelter. Some are called to our own neighborhood, some to our workplace, but we are all called as disciples to go!

4. Why do you think so many Christians fail to take this command seriously or personally?

Let everyone discuss their own thoughts about this question. Some people will not feel equipped to fulfill the great commission. Help them discover that it is God at work, not them. Some may be afraid of speaking out in their workplace or neighborhood or school. Help them discover that God is with them and will go before them and be their rear guard.

5. What is His promise to us found at the end of verse 20? How does that help you overcome your fears you may have in making disciples? How does it strengthen you in weakness?

Jesus says He will be with us to the end of the age. All Authority in heaven and earth are His. No one has the right to tell us we cannot spread the gospel when the King of Kings has commanded it! The word tells me the truth and I can rest and depend on it for my strength.

- **Hebrews 13:5** "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
- **1 John 4:4** You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.
- **John 5:17, 19-20** Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working..." Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.
- **John 14:12** I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.
- **John 15:5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.