

The Motivation for the Great Commission

Lesson for Students on May 3, 2026

Text: Matthew 28:18

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ You've probably heard a parent or teacher say, "Because I said so," when you asked, "Why do I have to do that?"
- ⇒ Usually, it's not just a power move; it's about their authority and your relationship with them – they love you, they're in charge, and you're supposed to trust them even when you don't fully get it.
- ⇒ In a similar way, the Great Commission isn't just a church slogan or a job for "super Christians." It's a clear command from Jesus to every believer. *Because Jesus said so!*

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The _____ of the Great Commission
 - a. We find the Great Commission five times in the New Testament: Matthew 28:18–20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46–48, John 20:21, Acts 1:8.
 - b. These verses together are the marching orders for the church and for **every** Christian, not just pastors, missionaries and super-Christians.
 - c. Why would God use us?
 - i. God could have chosen any way He wanted to spread the gospel but He chose to use people like us to share it.
 - ii. That means if you are a follower of Jesus, you're not on the bench; you are part of His plan to reach people.
2. The Reason We _____ the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18)
 - a. When we talk about the Great Commission, we often jump straight to "Go therefore..." but Jesus starts with a statement about His authority.
 - b. He is claiming absolute, unlimited _____ over the entire universe. He's not kind of in charge; He is completely in charge.
 - c. What does Jesus' authority mean?
 - i. Authority means having the right and power to command others and expect a response.
 - ii. Because Jesus is Lord and King of everything, He has every right to tell His followers what to do, including "Go and make disciples."
 - d. The primary motivation is Jesus told us to do it.
3. The Reasons We _____ the Great Commission
 - a. If Jesus' command is so clear, why do many Christians still ignore it?
 - b. We get _____.

- i. Most of us are not busy with “bad” things; we’re just busy with everything from school, sports, work, hobbies, social media and even church activities.
 - ii. It’s easy to fill our schedules with good stuff and still totally miss the main thing Jesus told us to do which is to make disciples.
- c. We _____.
- i. If you aren’t walking closely with God, then the things that matter to Him (like people being saved) won’t matter much to you either.
 - ii. If you never think about the Great Commission or lost people, it may be a sign that your heart has drifted from the Lord.
- d. We are _____.
- i. When you strip away the excuses, sometimes the bottom line is that we are disobeying Jesus.
 - ii. If we are always “too busy” or “too tired” or “too nervous,” and never actually obey His command, we are outside of God’s will for our lives.
 - iii. Not sharing the gospel is not just a missed opportunity; it is active disobedience to our King.

APPLICATION: What Could This Look Like for You?

- ⇒ Your personal “Who’s Your One?” (Come & See List)
 - Every believer has a personal responsibility to reach “their world” – the people God has put around them (friends, teammates, siblings, classmates, coworkers).
 - Who are one to three people in your life right now who don’t know Jesus or don’t go to church? Write their names down as your “Come & See List.”
- ⇒ Take advantage of opportunities at church.
 - Could your class come and serve together on a Monday night – going door-to-door and inviting people to church?
 - Every youth activity is a chance to invite someone you know needs Jesus. Point out the next activity on the calendar and create a list of young people your class could invite.
- ⇒ What is one specific change you will make this week so you are obeying the Great Commission instead of just hearing about it?