

The Method & The Means of the Great Commission – Student Lesson for Sunday, May 17, 2026

TEXT: Matthew 28:20 & Acts 1:8

INTRODUCTION: *Review...*

- ⇒ Ask: If someone were to ask you, “What is the Great Commission?” What would you say...
 - Allow the students to answer. Keep asking questions that make them dig deeper than a basic, surface-level answer.
 - Ask about the context, the timing, what are the different commands, etc.
- ⇒ Loaded question: Who is to take responsibility for the Great Commission?
 - They know the Bible answer, so you need to push them.
 - Do they really believe it is a responsibility of every Christian?
 - If they believe it, what is the last evangelistic activity that they have done?
- ⇒ POINT: The Great Commission is not only something we support; it is something we are responsible to obey.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The **Method** of the Great Commission
 - a. Read again Matthew 28:18-20 and ask: Which part of this passage feels most challenging to you? *Ask follow-up questions...*
 - b. Remember what we have discussed in previous week:
 - i. This is Jesus’ final command before His ascension; it’s not a side note but His strategic plan for how His church will grow after He leaves.
 - ii. The question is not if this is the best way, or just another thing the church is supposed to do. This is the heart of what it means to be a disciple and ought to be the priority of every local church.
 - iii. The only real issue is whether we will choose to **obey**.
 - iv. There are two primary ways that God intends His commission to be carried out.
 - c. The First Method: The **personal witness** of individual Christians.
 - i. Go and read Acts 1:8. Point out the phrase, “You shall be witnesses.”
 - ii. In your own words, what does it mean to be a *witness* of Jesus?
 - iii. Jesus’ command assumes that ordinary believers – not just the apostles – will go, speak, and teach as they live in everyday relationships. The Great Commission is for every Christian!
 - iv. The Great Commission is not simply a program at the church. It is to be executed in the normal day-to-day lives of every Christian.
 - v. Return to the conversation about their “world.” Who is in their world?
 1. Think of classmates, friends, teammates, neighbors, etc.
 2. Those people make up their world! It’s completely different than your world!
 3. Our responsibility is to reach “our” world. If we all reach “our” world, we will ultimately reach “the” world.
 - d. The Second Method: The **public proclamation** of the local church.
 - i. Return to Matthew 28:19-20 and emphasize: the command is not private only; it’s corporate and public.

- ii. Baptism is a public act identifying someone with Christ and with His people, always done in the context of a local church.
 - iii. Preaching, teaching, and discipling in the church are the normal way believers are trained to “observe all that I have commanded you” across generations.
 - e. APPLICATION: Which method is yours? **BOTH!** Reflect on two questions:
 - i. What is one relationship where God might be calling you to begin a more intentional gospel witness this week?
 - ii. How can you be more involved in or supportive of your local church’s evangelism efforts? Emphasize things like:
 - 1. Inviting their friends to church and youth activities.
 - 2. Coming out on Monday nights and going door-to-door with the rest of the church.
2. The **Means** of the Great Commission
- a. There is no question about it – the Great Commission (especially the personal application) can be intimidating. Jesus promised to do something about that!
 - b. Jesus says, “I am with you always!” He doesn’t send us out alone!
 - c. ILLUSTRATION:
 - i. Has there been a time in your life when you were more than you normally would be because of who was with you at that moment?
 - ii. Would you witness more if Jesus were to be with you in the flesh? Probably so!
 - iii. In a very real way, Jesus – through the Person of the Holy Spirit – is always with us.
 - d. We just have to be faithful. It’s the Holy Spirit Who does the real work.
 - i. The Holy Spirit **convicts** hearts as the Gospel is shared. See John 16:8–11.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit gives **boldness** and clarity to those who witness. See Acts 4:31; 1 Corinthians 2:4–5.
 - e. Personal witness is possible because the Spirit is with *each disciple*.
 - f. Public proclamation by the church is effective because the Spirit is with *the Church*.
 - g. The Great Commission is not ours to carry out in our strength, but to **obey** in dependence on the One who promised, “I am with you always.”

DISCUSSION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Remind your class of your Come & See list. Who has God put in your life that needs the Gospel? Are we praying? Are we engaging? Are we inviting?
- ⇒ Questions to consider: Often, it is easier to focus on the other functions of the church or our spiritual responsibilities as individual Christians and neglect evangelism.
 - If Jesus were to personally lead our church, youth group, class, what do you think His #1 priority would be?
 - If Jesus were to organize your life, what do you think your #1 priority would be?
 - Jesus spelled it out for us in Luke 19:10.