



SDG Discussion Guide

"On Mission with Christ - To the Ends of the Earth"

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8-11

July 23, 2017

For starters:

Do you go through days when the tasks for the day are overwhelming, making you fearful instead of confident? How do you cope? How does God encourage you?

Interaction with the text (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon texts. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective texts.)

1. What is the central command given in this week's passages?
2. What pattern can be seen in the places mentioned in Acts 1:8? How far are Christ's followers called to reach out?
3. Why was it important that the disciples witness Christ's ascension into Heaven (Acts 1:9-11)?
4. Although Jesus gave this command as His final words as He ascended, He first told the disciples to wait and not leave Jerusalem (Acts 1:4-5) until they received a gift. Why not? What was so important about this gift that the disciples couldn't just go without it?
5. How would you feel if you were in the disciples shoes, taking in the ascension and the two men in white suddenly appearing all at once, not to mention the command?
6. What is the similarity between Acts 1:4-5 and Matthew 28:20? What do these verses tell us about how God sends us out?
7. What hope can we hold on to from the angels' words in Acts 1:11, especially for those serving in challenging contexts?
8. In light of the sermon series that is wrapping up, what could be keeping modern Christians from spreading the good news, reaching out to our immediate circles, let alone to the ends of the earth?

Spend some time in prayer together for each other as another week passes. Pray for enduring strength (Is. 40:31), and for boldness to take on opportunities to serve and reach out, to let God's brilliant light shine through you before men. Pray that through the empowering of the Holy Spirit, you may be able to reach out to your own Judea, Samaria, and beyond.

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996), *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998), and *The NIV Life Application Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2011).