



FAITH



Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations... teaching them everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Make Disciples

On December 8, 2008, comedian Penn Gillette, an avowed atheist, posted a YouTube video about a man who had given him a Gideons New Testament. Surprisingly, Penn shared his appreciation for the man who had shared the gospel with him. Penn stated that, in his opinion, if a Christian sincerely believed in hell, it would be imperative for him to evangelize others and warn them of the consequences of unbelief. Penn posed this question: "How much do you have to hate somebody not to proselytize?" Many Christians were amazed at Penn's insight, but what is especially surprising is that most professing believers rarely share the gospel with others.

In today's article, I will attempt to light a fire under believers who are reticent to share their faith. I will provide four biblical responses to four pertinent questions: Why should we make disciples? Of whom do we make disciples? What does it mean to make disciples? And how do we accomplish this?

The answer to these questions is found in Matthew 28:18-20. In verses 18 and 19, Jesus explains why we are to make disciples. He states, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...." First, why should we make disciples? Because all authority belongs to Jesus Christ. Every authentic believer confesses the Lordship of Christ and recognizes His sovereignty over every facet of their lives; believers demonstrate faith by verbally proclaiming the gospel to unbelievers. Since

IN THIS ISSUE

Make Disciples

Online Directory

Summer Nights

Quest Ministries

Summer Drying You Out?

Pizza and Soft Drinks Saved My Day – A faith story

Summer Reads

Photos and Fun throughout

Prayers of the People

Jesus is in control; we should not fear how people respond to the gospel message, as we are empowered with the appropriate words at opportune times.

The results of a 2017 Barna survey claimed that only 2 out of every 10, or only 20%, believers think that making disciples is a command or that Christ has complete authority over their lives. A knee-jerk reaction to this statistic would have us quickly go out and find one person to share the gospel with so that we can say that Jesus is Lord. That is not the point; instead, we need a new mindset—an entire lifestyle overhaul. Those who follow Jesus are like Jesus and seek to make disciples wherever they go. To those who tremble at Jesus' command to make disciples, remember that as you work out your salvation, He works in you to do His good purpose (Philippians 2:13).

Secondly, whom do we disciple? In verse 19, Jesus answers this question in two ways, with the word “go” and the words “all nations.” The word go is more appropriately translated as “as you are going.” It is not an explicit command to leave one’s current setting. Instead, going sometimes involves going home (Mark 5:19–20). The essence of going is to diffuse the aroma of the knowledge of Christ as He leads us in every direction (2 Corinthians 2:14). As we disperse the fragrance of Christ, we will receive different responses. To some, we bring the stench of death; to others, the aroma of life (2 Corinthians 2:15–16).

What is essential is that we speak the Word of God sincerely (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are commanded to make disciples “as we are going” and take the good news to *all nations*. This means that we must intentionally pursue relationships in the contexts God places us in with people who do not resemble us. I am convinced that the most effective form of evangelism in 21st-century America is hospitality. Hospitality in Greek means loving strangers. Suppose Christians are going to evangelize cross-culturally effectively. In that case, they must faithfully invite unchurched people into their lives, put the gospel on display, and demonstrate God's transforming power.

The third question that requires an answer is what it means to make disciples? Jesus provides two objectives: 1. baptizing and 2. teaching. This means that discipleship is initially evangelistic. We should all be unrelentingly seeking to lead others to Christ. In a familial context, this begins at home. Parents are primarily responsible for evangelizing and discipling their children. Just as parents preside over their children’s physical births, they should actively facilitate their children’s spiritual advent. Secondly, discipleship teaches people to observe what Christ has commanded (Matthew 28:20). Many might balk at this idea because of James’ warning regarding the responsibilities inherent in being teachers (James 3:1). However, James’ words specifically target formal offices within the church, not informal individual discipleship. Teaching people to observe Christ’s commands occurs in context as believers live transparently alongside one another in the assembly of saints. We all have a responsibility to speak the truth to one another in love (Ephesians 4:15), to provoke one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24), and to teach and admonish one another through singing (Colossians 3:16). Likewise, fathers bear the unique responsibility of training and instructing their children in the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Additionally, parents and grandparents are held responsible for teaching obedience to their children and grandchildren (Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:7). So, while not everyone is called to be a teacher to formal groups, we are all held accountable to teach those we are discipling.



—Pastor Caleb

Lastly, to answer how we make disciples, Jesus states in Matthew 28:20, “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” In our discipleships, we train disciples to be in abject dependence on Christ. Jesus does not send us out into the world on our own; instead, He accompanies us wherever we go. The entire fullness of God’s nature dwells bodily in Jesus, and we have been filled with Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority (Colossians 2:9–10). He not only goes with us as we make disciples, but He also thoroughly equips us through His Word for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17). As you faithfully nourish your hungry soul with the Word of God, He will equip you with the necessary skills to evangelize unbelievers. As Jesus commands us to spread the gospel, He walks beside us, strengthening us while utilizing our talents to build His church. Go! Obey our Lord and make disciples!

(continued next column)

FAITH CONNECT LOGIN

ARE YOU IN THE ONLINE DIRECTORY?

Are you missing out on church-wide information?
Need a phone number or email address?
Want to find a photo or know who's related to whom?

Check out the Faith Connect Online Directory. Manage your page and make immediate updates. It's all at your fingertips. It's safe and secure!

<https://www.faithtoyou.com/faithconnect>



Faithtoyou.com/info

*July 3-5 p.m.
BBQ Fundraiser
\$20 and side dish*

*July 10-6:30 p.m.
Family Movie Night*

*July 17-6:30 p.m.
Desert Sands
Park Night*

*July 24-6:30 p.m.
Fellowship @
Kuzichers'*

*July 31-6:30 p.m.
Worship @
Schroeders'*

*August 7-5 p.m.
Zip Code
Fellowship*

*August 14-6:30
Fellowship @
McClures'*

*August 21-5 p.m.
Zip Code
Fellowship*

*August 28-5 p.m.
Small Group &
Ministry Fair*



Loving the Lost

by John Dawson



"Have you ever wondered what it feels like to have a love for the lost? This is a term

we use as part of our Christian jargon. Many believers search their hearts in condemnation, looking for the arrival of some feeling of benevolence that will propel them into bold evangelism. It will never happen. It is impossible to love "the lost." You can't feel deeply for an abstraction or a concept. You would find it impossible to love deeply an unfamiliar individual portrayed in a photograph, let alone a nation or a race or something as vague as "all lost people."

Don't wait for a feeling of love to share Christ with a stranger. You already love your heavenly Father, and you know that this stranger is created by Him but separated from Him, so take those first steps in evangelism because you love God. It is not primarily out of compassion for humanity that we share our faith or pray for the lost; it is, first of all, love for God."

—*Taking Our Cities for God*

A New Vision for the Lost

by Elisabeth Elliot



"As we who know Christ hear the cry of the damned as they hurtle headlong into

Christless nights without ever a chance, may we be moved with compassion as our Lord was. May we shed tears of repentance for these we have failed to bring out of the darkness. Beyond the smiling scenes of Bethlehem, may we see the crushing agony of Golgotha. May God give us a new vision of His will concerning the lost and our responsibility."

—*Through Gates of Splendor*

Let Them Leap Over Us

by Charles Spurgeon

Oh, my brothers and sisters in Christ, if sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies; and if they perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay and not madly to destroy themselves. If hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.

"When righteousness, peace, and joy increase, the kingdom of God is advancing (Romans 14:17). The most direct and practical way to advance God's kingdom is to fulfill the great commission. The great commission is as simple as knowing God and helping others to know Him, too."

—Caleb Schroeder
Sept. 16, 2018

"Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you're not saved yourself, be sure of that!

—Charles Spurgeon

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

—Martin Luther King

Whenever I open my mouth, I can be assured that in sharing His Word, it will never come back void.



Quest Ministries

Dave Ludwig is the founder of Quest Ministries. His mission is to inspire and equip believers in the Antelope Valley to reach out to unsaved individuals that God has placed in our sphere of influence. People all around us are heading for an eternity without Christ unless someone loves them enough to reach out to them and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ. The ministry of Quest is built on the fact that relationship building is the key to effective outreach.

Quest focuses on discipleship and evangelism and stems from the core belief that Jesus commanded each believer to action. Believers are to participate in the Great Commission, as found in Matthew 28:18–20.

As Quest has sought to call believers back to the Bible, it has also seen the importance of preparing believers to be able to answer the hope that lies within them. Since the inception of Quest Ministries, the emphasis has been to provide apologetic training to believers

seeking to communicate thoughtful and biblical answers to those with valid intellectual questions.

Quest defines the making of disciples as intentionally choosing to take spiritual responsibility for another person. That is why it focuses on one-on-one relationships. When we invest the truth of God's Word into the hearts and minds of other believers, we're making a lifelong impact and fulfilling the final command that our Lord Jesus gave us.

As Christians, we follow Jesus' example when we have a genuine heart for the lost (Luke 19:10). This begins by prayerfully reaching out to our unsaved friends and family members and then intentionally cultivating and nurturing meaningful relationships with those around us. Quest believes this ministry to the lost is most effective when it occurs in everyday lives instead of during scheduled events and programs.

Take time to reach out this week!

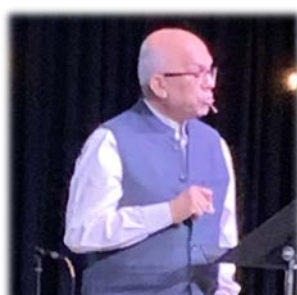
Desert Summer Drying You Out?



Join the Women of Faith Community for an 8-week Bible study from July to August to quench your thirst.

In *Putting God First* by Zach Schlegel, biblical counselors and Bible teachers will guide you through scriptures related to issues like fear of failing, the source of confidence, coveting, purpose, hope, and other relevant topics. Each one-page daily devotional asks questions and offers suggestions to help you find a freer life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in building B, the ladies will meet to review that week's devotions. Books are available in the church office for \$5. Each Tuesday a facilitator will help provide other insights. Be prepared for a lively discussion and watch your well fill up with living water.



An Appetite for Evangelism

by Pastor Josh Kornoff



Does Jesus's command in Matthew 28:19–20 bring encouragement or anxiety to your heart? It reads, "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, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." This call to evangelize is a tall order directed to every believer in Jesus Christ.

What comes to your mind when you think of the Great Commission? Many Christians feel dread and anxiety. They reluctantly yield to Christ's command to share the good news out of a sense of duty. But what if you could have a sincere appetite and joy when hearing this command? What if you could enjoy that universal call for believers to share their faith? Well, you can.

It begins with prayer and action. As you pray, ask God to help you be faithful to serve Him through evangelism. You'll find that your heart will align with God's will, and you'll desire to share more. His desires become our desires. Pray for help, desire, and opportunities, and then pray for specific people who need Jesus. Your intentional prayers will ignite an appetite in

you to share.

Along with prayer, action is needed. The more you share the gospel, the more you will delight in sharing. Evangelism is like other skills; the more you do it, the more proficient you become.

Are good evangelists gifted, or are they practiced? It is probably a little of both. They continue to learn how to share, ask questions, respond to objections, and offer hope to people. They know key Bible verses and have them ready to go. You can do the same; the more you prepare for and do evangelism, the more your eagerness will grow.

I went on a Mexico mission trip as a college student. Our team met weekly to pray and train. I was eager to share the gospel in Mexico. But once there, I was quickly frustrated because I was limited. We only had two interpreters, and many of us wanted to share. This disappointment challenged me to be more diligent at home. I asked myself, "Why am I so eager to share in a foreign country but not in my country where I speak the language?" My prayer and training had created a hunger for evangelism that could not be satisfied in a foreign context but only be fed here at home.

I encourage you to pray, prepare, and practice. You will find a hunger you didn't know you had, and the Lord will show you daily opportunities to share Him with a lost and dying world.

Be Ready 2 Engage

Prepare and Go!

- B** Believe what you know; know what you believe. (John 8:32)
- E** Enjoy your relationship with Jesus. (Luke 10:27)
- R** Remember God's grace in your life. (James 1:17)
- E** Empower yourself with God's power. (Isaiah 41:10–13)
- A** Answer the call to share the gospel. (Matthew 28:19–20)
- D** Decide to be intentional. (James 1:22)
- Y** You're off—pray, pray, pray! (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- 2** —to the store, the bank, the car wash, the job, the school. . .
- E** Encourage that eternal life is a gift for all. (Romans 6:23).
- N** Non-judgmental language is a must. (Matthew 7:1–2)
- G** Get information by asking questions and being . . .
- A** . . . an active listener. (Proverbs 18:13)
- G** Give something of yourself. (Hebrews 13:16)
- E** Empower with a verse. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



Pizza & Soft Drinks Saved My Day

by John Sanchez

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9 KJV).

In 1993, at a Rick and Mick pizza party for the AV high schools, I finally understood there was no way I could earn salvation. This was an evangelistic outreach for teens, and I was one of the volunteers who served pizza and soft drinks.

At the time, I was 41, attended church, and had my hair past my shoulders. I was glad to see that one of the guest speakers also had long hair. He told his story of how Jesus helped him kick drugs, alcohol, and crime and turn his life around.

At the end of the evening, I thanked him for his moving testimony. I said I hoped it had hit home with his target audience. He commented he was happy to see another older, long-haired hippy professing Jesus, and it reminded him that God didn't provide salvation for just the clean-cut, neatly trimmed people. “Are you saved,” he asked?

“I think I am. I'm a good husband, Dad, and person.”

“Oh man, you're too busy trying to save yourself,” he laughed. He opened

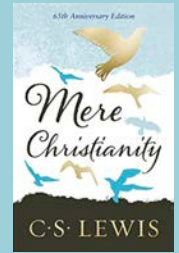
his Bible and showed me Ephesians 2:8–9.

That night God opened my ears and my heart to His truth. There was no way I could earn my salvation because it is a gift from Him through the sacrifice of his Son. The gospel became clear and real.

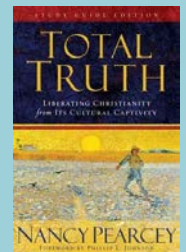
I realized that God does not want us to be perfect. He accepts us as we are. Our only requirement is to believe the truth—that His Son Jesus became fully man, lived a sinless life, was tortured, bled, died, rose from the grave, and defeated death and sin for each of us.

Knowing I am a sinner saved by grace alone makes it easier to share the gospel because I know I am no better than anyone I am talking with. God opens many doors for me, allowing me to be the conduit of His work. Whenever I open my mouth, I can be assured that in sharing His Word, it will never come back void.

I want to encourage you to be bold to tell others—family, friends, foes, and strangers—about God's mercy and grace. We are here to serve God, to honor God, and to love God, for He loved us first.



In the classic *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis explores the common ground upon which all those of the Christian faith stand together. Lewis brings together his World War II broadcasts, providing an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers to understand how to explain the Christian faith. This classic is on the all-time Christian best-seller list.



In *Total Truth*, Nancy Pearcey analyzes the split between public and private, fact and feelings. She reveals the strategies of secularist gatekeepers who use this division to banish biblical principles from the cultural mainstream, stripping Christianity of its power to challenge and redeem the whole of culture. How can we overcome this divide? Unify our fragmented lives? Recover authentic spirituality? Pearcey's examples show how to liberate Christianity from its cultural captivity. She walks readers through developing a full-orbed Christian worldview. She makes a passionate case that Christianity is not just religious truth but truth about absolute reality—it is *Total Truth*.





“Pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live. Don’t suppress the Spirit, and don’t stifle those who have a word from the Master (1 Thessalonians 5:17–20 MSG).

Pray as the Spirit leads.

*Sara Butler’s stomach surgery was successful. Pray for her as she begins radiation. And her brother passed recently.

*Jeff Feathers’s wife is dealing with medical issues.

*Sue Cull’s mom is declining rapidly. She cannot maintain breathing on her own.

*Joyce Zaranka is recovering from a stroke that affected her speech.

*Trevor Pencille is recovering from back surgery.

*Comfort for George Beavers’s family as he recently died in a car accident.

*Aron Carle is in excruciating pain from pseudo gout, with doctors saying there is little that can be done.

*Pam Schueler’s dad’s biopsy confirmed cancer. He is not going to have treatment currently. Pray for comfort.

*Bob and Linda Schuman’s friend Kirk was in a motorcycle accident and is at UCLA in an induced coma.

*Tee Bowers’ 72-year-old friend Rosemary needs prayers for comfort and peace—her only child, her adult son, was found dead on the street.

*Shane Speer is recovering from a minor

heart attack.

*Martina Randall’s 2-year-old grandson was struck and killed. Pray for comfort.

*James Vondra’s friend Aiden Agnor is recovering from surgery from a head-on collision.

*Praise the Lord for Natalie Lewis’s progress. She continues to need prayer for her medical needs.

*Baby Emmerit Porter’s continued recovery from his premature birth so he can leave the hospital and go home to mommy and daddy.

*Baby Jordan Ludwig has continued medical needs.

*Kyle Smith has medical needs.

*Carolina Hernandez’s mother has leg pain, and her aunt cares for her grandma.

*Nick Ford has stage 4 cancer.

*Caesar Coons, Sr. has liver cancer.

*Lynn Grandinetti is bedridden with lung and heart issues.

*Pray for our pastors, staff, and ministry directors: Caleb Schroeder, Les Counts, Bev Gonda, Saul Hernandez, Josh Kornoff, Curtis Lewis, Clint McClure, Brad Norman, Nikki Pencille, and Jason Wick.

* Praise God for many answered prayers.

If you would like your prayer needs to immediately go out to church members contact Laura Cox:

chozengrl7777@aol.com

UPCOMING*

Sunday, July 3

5:30 p.m.

Camp Faith BBQ

Fundraiser. \$20.

Monday, July 4

God Bless America!

Sunday, July 10

Movie Night

6:30 p.m.

July 11–15

Camp Faith

Friday, July 15

Grace Resources

Sunday, July 17

Park Night

6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 24

Game Night

5:30 p.m.

July 24–29

Camp Zion

Sunday, July 31

Worship Night

6:30 p.m.

Friday, August 19

Grace Resources

SAVE THE CHOIR DATES:

Youth–Aug 30, 4:30 p.m.

Adult–Aug 31, 6 p.m.

Children–Sept 6, 5:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE:

October 7–9

Women’s Retreat

*For more information:

Faithtoyou.com/info

The Christian Standard Bible is used
unless otherwise indicated.



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