

THE ADVENTURE OF JOINING GOD IN HIS WORK

Lesson 7

The Adventure of Joining God in Building Community

Fulfill your mission by...

- (1) Discovering and embracing God's truths about
building healthy community
based on the Great Command and the Great Commission
- (2) Developing an "all-peoples" heart

"And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' ⁴⁰ Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

“Building Community” Exercise #1

- **Share** words or phrases which instinctively come to mind when describing *your* ideal community.
- **Read** the passage below:

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- **Discuss:** What are some insights you gain from this passage (the Great Command) about building community God’s way.

Joining Jesus in Building Community based on His Great Command

How can you tell if you are building this type of community?

1 We maintain _____ by not _____ loving God from loving people.

2 We deal with our insatiable hunger for relationships by...
gaining a _____ heart through a transformed _____ & _____

Why do we hunger to love and be loved? What limits us?

What is the solution to our limitation to love?

(A) Jesus transforms our _____ for loving others. HOW?

By _____

(B) Jesus transforms our _____ to love, even in adverse circumstances. How?

By _____

These 2 transformations make it possible for us to have a true
_____ heart.

How do the 2 halves of the Great Command work in tandem?

(loving God fully/loving others as yourself)

Breakout Exercise

Discuss:

How have others been used to encourage you to love God more fully?

Brainstorm and Share:

What is one habit you could build into your life that would orient you toward loving others with a “golden rule” heart?

Joining Jesus in Building Community Based on His Great Commission

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matt. 28-18-20

Understanding our Mission Statement

One primary command in Greek: _____

There are **3 modifiers** in Greek which clarify the way we are to carry out our mission. What are the **implications**?

Modifier	Implications
1.	
2.	
3.	

“End of the Age”—Implications:

Breakout Exercise: Your Mission

DISCUSS

Who in your life might God want you to be more aware of discipling?

BRAINSTORM

Based on Matthew 28:18-20...

How would your home/relationships/church/society connections, etc. be different if you were consciously modeling them on a Great Commission mission statement?

Jesus “coaches” us on laying a foundation for a Great Commission Community.

RED LETTER TRUTHS FROM JESUS

In my Great Commission Community...

Everything is under my _____

- So support each other, hold each other accountable to live by _____ not just _____

_____ **is found in my** _____

- So encourage each other to _____

My followers _____ **my** _____.

- So _____ in order to make my priority your priority.

_____ **is welcome at my** _____

- So open your heart to _____—develop an _____ heart.

God's "All Peoples" Heart

Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all nations (Greek = all ethnos).

- Discover from the following passages the extent of God's mission and the people he works through to fulfill the mission.
- Gain insights about the qualities of an "all peoples" heart set.

God's Mission	The Extent	People God Works Through
Gen. 12: 1-3	All families of the earth	Abe & descendants
Ex. 19:5-6	Among all peoples	God's "possession" priests, holy nation
Psalms 67	All nations	Israel.....
Isa. 49:3-6	The nations/ ends of earth	Israel
Mt. 28: 18-20	All the nations	Followers of Jesus
Acts 1:8	To ends of the earth	Followers of Jesus
2 Cor. 5: 18-20	God reconciling the world	Followers of Jesus
1 Peter 2:9	Proclaim God's excellencies	Followers of Jesus
Rev. 7:9-10	Every nation All tribes, all peoples	Followers of Jesus

Some indicators that you are developing an all-peoples heart...

- You are _____ focused
- You are guided by _____

Self-Evaluation: How wide does your "all peoples" heart really stretch?

An Examination of "Pied Beauty" by G. M. Hopkins, 1877

Breakout Exercise: An All Peoples Heart

Discuss: In our world today, what do you think are the chief obstacles to growing an "all peoples" heart?

Share ways you need to grow in order to develop an "all peoples" heart.

☺ **Closing Story: "People Really Can Change!"** ☺

Adventure Workouts for Lesson 7

1. **Copy and begin to memorize** Matthew 22:37-40 and 28:18-20

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2. **Daily pray and ask God to direct you** in specific ways to build community by obeying the Great Command and the Great Commission. **Be creative and partner with other believers** in the adventure of joining God in his work!

3. **Consider adding to your library** two excellent resources for fostering healthy relationships:

The Blessing by John Trent, Gary Smalley, and Kari Trent Stageberg unpacks the five relational aspects of a biblical blessing.

Father God by Dave Patty provides guidance for dealing with wounds from our earthly fathers and how to enjoy and trust our Heavenly Father