

MAIN POINT

Community Life is on mission to take the gospel to the ends of the earth through seeking to live sacrificially as Jesus did.

INTRODUCTION

What is the biggest project you've been given responsibility over, work or otherwise?

How do you pursue a task that feels overwhelming?

In Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8, we read Jesus' charge to His church before He ascended to heaven. The task He left us with, known as the Great Commission, is to spread the gospel around the world and grow the church by making disciples. This is a weighty task, and one we cannot accomplish on our own. We need both the Holy Spirit and other believers to help us in our mission. At Community Life, we are committed to pursuing this mission by living sacrificially as Jesus did.

DISCUSSION

> READ ACTS 1:1-8 AND JOHN 20:21.

What did Jesus promise His disciples in Acts 1:8? What command did He then give them?

Why was the coming of the Holy Spirit essential to the disciples' obeying Jesus' Great Commission? How would the Spirit empower the disciples to carry out Jesus' mission? How does this help us understand the role of the Spirit in our lives today?

What does it mean to be Jesus' witness? What are we witnesses to? How can we be His witnesses today if we have never seen Him?

What is the significance of the places named in verse 8? Starting from where we are today, what places might correspond to Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria?

How can we help fulfill Jesus' command to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth even if we never travel beyond the borders of our nation?

In John 20:21, what connection do you see between the peace Jesus proclaimed and the commission He pronounced of sending the disciples?

Do you see significance in the fact that Jesus said His sending of His followers was "as the Father has sent me"? Explain.

APPLICATION

In light of this week's message and study, how is God calling you to live sacrificially in pursuit of His mission? How do you need to respond?