



INVESTIGATE - The Promise

Read Jesus' promise in verse 20 again. How does the claim in verse 18 give extra 'weight' to this promise?

Why would this have been such a comfort to these first disciples?

What does it mean in reality for us day to day?

Why should it liberate us to give ourselves to the mission of Jesus?

How was / is this promise fulfilled (Acts 1:7-8)?

Note: Next time you are tempted to shrink back from the mission of Jesus remind yourself of this promise. (You could add it to your list of verses to memorise!)



TAKE ACTION

What next steps could you take to be more fully involved with this thrilling mission? There may be steps you could take together as a Small Group.

Locally: - A commitment to pray for 2 or 3 friends? (The SG could share in this.)
- Invite a friend to the next Café (Mar 17th), or Ladies Evening (Mar 13th)?

Overseas: - Pray for unreached people groups
(see www.reachacross.net and www.joshuaproject.net/people-profile.php)
- Support projects financially through Oakhall Church
(Serbia Bible School; The LOCKE'S in Mali; The MILES' in Cambodia)

Note: It might be helpful to share your 'next step' with someone and revisit it next week)



PRAY IT THROUGH

Confess any fears or disobedience regarding the Great Commission.

Thank God for those who brought the message of Jesus to the UK.. and to you!

Ask God to help you grasp the power of Jesus and his promise to be with you and to help you as you take some 'next steps'.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A TRUE DISCIPLE?

SMALL GROUPS SHEET
WEEK BEGINNING 10 FEBRUARY 2013

**Study 4: True disciples share in the mission of Jesus
(Matthew 28:16-20)**

Oakhall
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



FOR STARTERS

Last time we heard Jesus teaching us to expect two things:

- a) opposition from the world.
- b) the Holy Spirit to witness to the world as we witness about Jesus.

Have you had any experience of either in this past week?

Increasingly, the pressure is being felt by Christians to keep their faith *private* (just between them and God) rather than make it *public* so that it impacts others.

How would you respond to this?



BACKGROUND

Read Mathew 28:16-20

These are the last words of Jesus before he ascends to heaven. Compare Acts 1:7-9. What is the significance of this?



INVESTIGATE - The Claim

Read the incredible claim of Jesus in verse 18 again. What does it really mean?

Consider these other statements regarding Jesus' supreme authority:
Ephesians 1:18-23; Philippians 2:9-11

Other people in history have made similar claims. Why is Jesus' claim different?
How did Jesus demonstrate His authority during his ministry?



THINK IT THROUGH

How should this claim affect how we respond to these (and any) words of Jesus?



INVESTIGATE - The Command

How would you summarise the command in v19?

Some would argue that this command was only for the original disciples. How would you answer them from this passage, and from the rest of the Bible?

These last words of Jesus are not an after thought! Consider these other statements of God's plan to bless / reach / save people from **all nations**:

- O.T.: Genesis 12:1-3; 1 Chronicles 16:23-24; Isaiah 52:7, 10
- N.T.: 1 Timothy 2:1-6; Revelation 7:9-10

Why do you think Jesus added these phrases to His command:

- "...baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit"?
- "... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"?

In what ways might we stop short of fully obeying this command of Jesus?



THINK IT THROUGH

We don't have to be gifted preachers / evangelists to play our part in this mission. List different ways that each of us can be involved:

Locally: _____

Overseas: _____
