



# THE MAP

STUDIES FOR THE DISCIPLE'S TRAIL

NORTHWAY  
CHURCH

## THE GRADUATE'S COMMISSIONING & EMPOWERMENT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 | MATTHEW 28:16-20; ACTS 1:8, 2:1-4 | RODNEY MILLS

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### F260 BIBLE READING PLAN

A BIBLE READING PLAN FOR BUSY BELIEVERS

#### WEEK 40 (OCTOBER 1)

- Acts 15-16 | □ Galatians 1-3 | □ Galatians 4-6 | □ Acts 17-18:17 | □ 1 Thessalonians 1-2

#### MEMORY VERSES

Acts 17:11 | Acts 17:24-25

**SERMON IN A SENTENCE**

Jesus commissions us to go and make disciples and empowers us with the Holy Spirit to be His bold witnesses. May we be of one mind and one accord in our calling.

**THIS WEEK’S BIBLICAL BASIC**

**Church:** I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth. *“But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ,” (Ephesians 4:15, CSB).*

# Questions for Your Journal

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Use these following questions to evaluate what you learned from Sunday's sermon.

## Summary:

- The main thing the speaker wants me to do, be, and/or feel as a result of this message.

## Application to My Life:

- What did God say to me through this message?
  - How does my life measure up to this word?
  - What action(s) will I take to bring my life in line with this word?
  - What truth do I need to study further?
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## ***The Great Commission and Disciple-Making***

*“Jesus came near and said to them, ‘All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 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,’”* (Matthew 28:20–20, *Christian Standard Bible*).

Jesus' final words to His disciples in Matthew 28:18–20 are often called “The Great Commission” for their significance in setting the church about Jesus' business on earth. When it comes to making disciples, the Commission's importance really can't be overstated. It shows us our call to disciple-making, our means of disciple-making, and our confidence for disciple-making. First, the Great Commission is Jesus' call to a disciple-making ministry. After spending three years with his apostles, Jesus sent them out to make disciples of all nations through the preaching of the gospel. They responded to Jesus' call with great courage and faithfulness, altering the course of human history and spreading the good news of Jesus to the ends of the known world in just a few short decades. While their faithfulness was essential, in every generation the church must heed Jesus' call to make disciples. When we do, we'll get to work where we are—in our homes, schools, and cities—and send and support missionaries to the nations.

Second, Jesus' Great Commission reveals to us the means of disciple-making: evangelism and discipleship. According to Jesus, our disciple-making begins when men, women, and children commit themselves to the leadership of Christ and are baptized in the name of the Triune God. This baptism anticipates our consistent gospel witness and a commitment to calling sinners to repentance and faith in Christ. Our life as a church must should have this call as its emphasis and our individual lives must be reconfigured to create opportunities for us to be around lost people for the sake of evangelistic conversations. Evangelism, then, must be an essential element of our disciple-making. On the other hand, once the lost are saved, our responsibility includes teaching them what it means to be faithful

to Christ in their own lives. This discipleship happens through the teaching ministry of the church, but it also occurs when believers invest in one another.

Finally, the Great Commission reveals the confidence for disciple-making. Jesus told his disciples that he had received “all authority in heaven and on earth” (Mt 28:18) and that He would be with them always (Mt 28:20). Though the “results” might be slow or even hard to measure, Jesus’ presence and power are with us as we go about fulfilling the Great Commission. Regardless of the “results” we should be confident in our efforts because Jesus said “the gates of hades will not prevail” against His church (Mt 16:18). Though the lost might reject the message of salvation, we must never relent in our mission of taking the gospel to our neighbors and the nations and trusting God with their responses.

## Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Acts 1:1–14, 2:1–4 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

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## Reflect

After more than three years of apprenticeship to Jesus, the apostles still failed to fully recognize the method King Jesus would use to make His kingdom known on earth. **Read Acts 1:1–8. What role must the Holy Spirit play in the church’s mission of witnessing to Jesus? How can we pursue His enabling power?**

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Based on their question—“Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6)—the disciples anticipated an earthly kingdom ushered in through supernatural, but worldly, means. **How does the church replace the work of God with humanly-devised methods? Read 1 Corinthians 2:1–13. How should we resist this urge?**

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The apostles aren't the only Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit—though they were empowered by Him for a unique ministry that does not continue today. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:1–26. According to this passage every Christian is empowered by God for a ministry in Christ's church. What do the various church "members" work together to do?**

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On the day Jesus' disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit, "they were all together in one place" (Acts 2:1), and it's likely they were praying together (see Acts 1:14). **What role should prayer play in the life of the church? See Matthew 9:37–38; Ephesians 6:18–20; 1 Thessalonians 5:17–18; 2 Thessalonians 3:1–2; 1 Timothy 2:1–4, 8; Hebrews 13:18; James 5:13–18; and Jude 20 for some ideas.**

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## Examine

Based on 2 Timothy 3:16 (*"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"*), this series of questions is intended to help you figure out what you should do or believe in response to this text. (*This passage may not have a clear answer for each question. Just use them to prompt your thinking.*)

1. What does this passage tell me to believe?

*(How does it teach me?)*

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2. What does this passage tell me not to believe?

*(How does it reprove me?)*

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### 3. How does this passage tell me not to live?

*(How does it correct me?)*

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### 4. How does this passage tell me to live?

*(How does it train me in righteousness?)*

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## Embrace

After spending significant time with this passage, you've probably learned a lot and heard God speak to you through His Word. Look back at your responses to the previous questions and ask God to show you how you can respond to this text this week.

Write down some ideas for how you can respond to the truth of God's Word.

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#### About The Map

The Map exists to help you consistently reflect on Scripture as you pursue maturity in Christ. When you devote yourself to reading God's Word, and meditate on what you read, you're allowing Him to shape your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.



## Disciple-Making Guide

Kids Kindergarten through 6th grade receive Adventure Tokens for discipleship activities completed during the week. They can spend them at the Adventure Store on the last Sunday of the month.

### Big Picture Questions for Unit 1: “God Created Everything”

**Preschool:** Q: Who is God?  
A: *God is our Creator and King.*

**Kids (1-6):** Q: Who is God?  
A: *God is our Creator and King.*

### This Week’s Family Reading Plan

**for Preschoolers:** *Moses was Born and Sent to Egypt\**

**Day 1:** *Acts 15-16*

**Day 2:** *Galatians 1-3*

**Day 3:** *Galatians 4-6*

**Day 4:** *Acts 17-18:17*

**Day 5:** *1 Thessalonians 1-2*

\*Preschool readings are taken from *The Big Picture Interactive Bible Stories for Toddlers, Old Testament* (B&H Publishing Group), available at Amazon.com & LifeWay Christian Store.

### Key Passage for Unit 1: “God Created Everything”

**Preschoolers:** “..All things have been created through him and for him,” (Colossians 1:16b, *Christian Standard Bible*).

**Kids (1-6 grade):** “..All things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and by him all things hold together,” (Colossians 1:16b–17, *Christian Standard Bible*).

Northway’s Family Ministry uses *The Gospel Project* to help preschoolers, kids, and students grow in their knowledge of Scripture and of Jesus Christ, about whom it was all written (Luke 24:44-49).



### Adventure Token Coupon

*Fill this out and bring it to Bible Study for your tokens!*

I worked on learning my big picture question and key passage \_\_\_\_\_.

I read my Bible at home \_\_\_\_\_.

Child’s Name \_\_\_\_\_.

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_.

# 30 BIBLICAL BASICS

## CORE BELIEFS

### **God** | 2 Corinthians 13:13

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### **Personal God** | Psalm 121:1-2

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

### **Salvation by Grace** | Ephesians 2:8-9

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Authority of the Bible** | 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God that guides my belief and action.

### **Identity in Christ** | John 1:12

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

### **Church** | Ephesians 4:15

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth.

### **Humanity** | John 3:16

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

### **Compassion** | Psalm 82:3-4

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

### **Stewardship** | Psalm 24:1-2

I believe that everything I am and everything I own belong to God.

### **Eternity** | John 14:1-2

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to judge all people and to establish His eternal kingdom.

## CORE PRACTICES

### **Worship** | Psalm 95:1-2

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

### **Prayer** | Psalm 66:18-20

I pray to God to know him, to find direction for my life, and to lay my requests before him.

### **Bible Study** | Hebrews 4:12

I study the Bible to know God and his truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

### **Single-mindedness** | Matthew 6:33

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

### **Total Surrender** | Romans 12:1

I dedicate my life to God's purposes.

### **Biblical Community** | Acts 2:44-47

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, in the life of others, and in the world.

### **Spiritual Gifts** | Romans 12:4-6

I know my spiritual gifts and use them to fulfill God's purposes.

### **Offering My Time** | Colossians 3:17

I offer my time to fulfill God's purposes.

### **Giving My Resources** | 2 Corinthians 8:7

I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

### **Sharing My Faith** | Ephesians 6:19-20

I share my faith with others to fulfill God's purposes.

## CORE VIRTUES

### **Love** | 1 John 4:10-12

I am committed to loving God and loving others.

### **Joy** | John 15:11

Despite my circumstances, I feel inner contentment and understand my purpose in life.

### **Peace** | Philippians 4:6-7

I am free from anxiety because I have found peace with God, peace with others, and peace with myself.

### **Self-Control** | Titus 2:11-13

I have the power through Christ to control myself.

### **Hope** | Hebrews 6:19-20

I can cope with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

### **Patience** | Proverbs 14:29

I am slow to anger and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

### **Kindness/Goodness** | 1 Thessalonians 5:15

I choose to be kind and good in my relationships with others.

### **Faithfulness** | Proverbs 3:3-4

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

### **Gentleness** | Philippians 4:5

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

### **Humility** | Philippians 2:3-4

I choose to esteem others above myself.

The 30 Biblical Basics are the skeleton of a person being formed into the image of Jesus by His Spirit (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18), a helpful framework for the Christian's thoughts, actions, and character. As we commit ourselves to growing in Christ through the process of spiritual formation, we pray these statements become increasingly true of us. When they are, we'll be able to carry out the biblical mandate to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), and to truly **love, live, and lead like Jesus.**