

LEADING OTHERS

Matthew 28:16-20

At the end of Matthew's Gospel, after the resurrection, Jesus invites his followers to meet him on a mountain. The disciples would know what happens on the mountainside: Encounters with God and Jesus teaching. This would be His final teaching: "Go and lead people to know me, as I have led you to encounter and know God through me. Welcome them into the family of God. And teach them my ways." (Pastor Brian paraphrase).

Monday: Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-11.

What is the difference between trying to force one's ideas or beliefs versus planting seeds and letting God transform a life?

Practice Step:

Write down one person's name and commit to praying for them consistently, trusting that God is working in their life.

Tuesday: Read Matthew 28:16-17.

How can acknowledging our own doubts and questions help us relate to and share Jesus with others?

Practice Step:

Think of one person in your life who may not know Jesus, or may have doubts about faith or the church. It can be anyone – a family member, a coworker, a friend, a hairdresser, a waiter at your favorite restaurant, a friend of your kids, a friend of your parents. This week, pray each day for the opportunity to be present and available to him or her.

Wednesday: Read Matthew 28:18.

How can knowing Jesus has "all authority" give you confidence in sharing your faith with someone else?

Practice Step:

Make a list of all the ways sharing Jesus with someone else might make a positive difference. Make a list of the reasons that you're nervous to share or the things that you fear could go wrong. Note which things on both lists are about God and/or of eternal importance, and which are about you and/or temporary things.

Thursday: Read Matthew 28:19 (first part).

What does it mean for you personally to "go" and make disciples?

Where might God be calling you to "go"?

Practice Step:

Sometime this week, challenge yourself to initiate a conversation with someone you don't know well – a coworker, a neighbor, someone in line at the grocery store, someone in worship on Sunday who you don't already know. Begin with a question like: What brings you joy? Or, if you could wave a magic wand and change something in the world, what would you change right now? Or, simply, tell me about you!

Friday: Read Matthew 28:19 (second part).

How can you help someone know they belong, that they are invited to be part of God's family?

Practice Step

Think of one person you could invite to a meaningful gathering—a church event, worship, a meal, or a casual faith discussion over coffee. Send an invitation today!

Saturday: Matthew 28:20.

How can you actively teach the ways of Jesus to others?

Practice Step

Think of the teachings of Jesus that are most meaningful to you. Watch for a moment this week to share a teaching of Jesus that has impacted your life with someone else. When the moment comes, be ready to share.

Leading people is about helping them to move forward, to find the way, to have a particular experience. Leading people starts with listening, acknowledging doubt and struggle, and being present. Leading people continues with invitations to deeper connection, to encounter God, to a place of belonging in God's family. Leading people points to the teachings of Jesus, and the blessing of living centered in the way of Christ. How can we lead people around us today? What step will you take?

Everything we do must serve our mission: to walk with more people toward a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.