

# Home group – Resource Material

All Sent – Matthew 28: 16-20

Explain that today they are going to be looking at Jesus' great commissioning of His disciples before He ascended and returned to heaven. Jesus was telling the disciples what they needed to do with their lives to fulfil their purpose as His followers. Prior to this, the disciples were really struggling as when Jesus had died, they lost their hope and purpose. However, this commissioning marks a time for the followers of Jesus, when He told them exactly what they should do.

## **Worship**

Do what you would normally do as a group for worship in this time.

Additionally, before you get into the word begin with a time of prayer/meditation. Ask the group to think about what their purpose for their life is, what they feel is God's purpose for their life and then to think on the things that may or are getting in the way of them fulfilling their potential and purpose.

## **Word**

Before reading the passage from Matthew begin by praying that God may meet us and speak to us through His word both individually and as a group.

We are going to read through Matthew 28: 16-20 3 times. Ask two people to read aloud, one after another with a small gap in between the two readings and then everyone to read the passage individually. (if you have an audio version of the Bible and the resource to play this then you can use this to replace one of the readers). Whilst listening and reading to the passage ask the group to look out for, to listen out for the verse, the sentence, the word which stands out, shouts out to them, the one which sticks in their minds.

Once you've read through the passage all 3 times give some time of quiet for reflection, meditation and thought on the verse, sentence, word that has stood out to them. Use this time to ask God 'what does this mean to you?', 'What does this remind me of/make me think about?', 'What is this saying to me, to St Mark's?'

Bring the group back together and ask each person to share (just for a minute or two) with the rest of the group what stood out for them and what thoughts they had about it. The **big thing** here is during this sharing time ask the rest of the group not to comment, question or discuss what is being shared **just listen**.

Once everyone has shared then open a time for discussion.

Are there any similarities? Did certain passages or themes keep repeating? Is there a commonality in what people felt God was saying? This is a familiar verse but did anything "stick-out" for the first time?

Brainstorm with your group the different ways that Jesus' Great Commission affects their lives and what, in reality, being sent looks like in their lives?

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What are the stumbling blocks, the doubts, the things that stop us or make us believe we are not worthy to be or cannot be sent?

## **What next?**

Pray for each other, in pairs, in triplets or individually whichever the group feels most comfortable with.

Pray into any challenges, pains, possibilities or opportunities that have been brought up through this study. When we pray for each person / one another ask God for words, pictures, wisdom, knowledge, discernment, for opportunities, strength and courage to fulfil God's purpose in our lives.

This week be open and look for the opportunities that God puts before you to share the light of God with those you do life with