

[MESSAGE NOTES]

We Are the Church (Matthew 28:18-20)

Message Notes:

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

We all know and follow Jesus because someone else first introduced Him to us. ***Who was that person? Tell the story of how you become a disciple of Jesus.***

[DIGGING DEEPER]

We had the privilege of hearing from Joel Williams this week. Joel and his wife Rachel are some of our mission partners here at FIRST who serve over in Africa working to catalyze disciple-making communities and movements all across Kenya and the surrounding countries. He reminded and challenged us with the importance and priority of making disciples as followers of Jesus. The Williams and their team have seen over 12,000 baptisms in the last 7 years and have over 7,000 active groups with 30,000+ non-believers in those groups learning more about Jesus.

Mission Partner Sunday | We Are the Church | August 13th, 2023

- Sermon Notes and Message Discussion Guide -

We have a lot we could learn from how God is working on the other side of the world. With that in mind, this week we want to encourage you to walk through Scripture using one of the primary tools that they use over in Kenya: a **Discovery Bible Study** (DBS for short). A DBS is not about filling up with information, but putting the Word into practice. On your own or with your community, choose one of the Scriptures below and walk through the following DBS steps:

John 13:15-17

Acts 5:12-16

Matthew 7:21-27

John 15:9-16

- **Read and Re-read.** Select a passage of Scripture (*one of the above for now*). Have different people read the passage in 2-3 different translations. Recommended translations are NIV, CSB, NLT, ESV, and MSG. Contrasting translations help us understand the passage in greater depth.
- **Re-tell.** Have someone summarize the passage *in their own words*. Try not to look at the passage and don't be afraid to ask, "where do we see that in this passage?" as you go.
- **What does this passage tell us about God?** About the Trinity? (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) About His character, desires, etc.
- **What does this passage tell us about People?** About their character, behavior, desires, etc.
- **Obey.** What invitations of obedience does this passage/content have for you? How will I align my life with what God has revealed to me? The goal isn't just to hear but to obey—not just to know but be transformed.
- **Share.** Who will you share this with? What is most important to us we can't help but share.

Make sure you commit to following up with anything others say they will do. And feel free to do a DBS with any Scripture, with anyone in your life, with the goal being obedience and sharing—aligning our hearts and lives with Jesus by doing what He says.

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message.

Matthew 28

Mark 1

John 15

Luke 9