

Week 46: The Great Commission: Go and Teach All Nations

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Introduction

After His resurrection, Jesus gave His disciples instructions and direction. He gathered them and gave a clear command, a mission that would define the work of His people until the end of the age. This command is known as the **Great Commission**.

It is rooted in the authority of Jesus, He declares that all power in heaven and earth has been given to Him. From that authority flows the responsibility of His followers to go, teach, baptize, and train others to obey everything He commanded. The Great Commission is the responsibility of every believer and every household, not only preachers or missionaries. Families are to receive truth, teach it, live it, and pass it on.

This week teaches that the Christian life is not passive. It is active, generational, and outward-facing. A faithful home is to become a place of discipleship, where children are trained, truth is spoken, and Christ's authority is honored.

Scripture Reading (KJV)

(Matthew 28:16–20, Acts 1:6–8, Deuteronomy 6:6–9, Psalm 78:4–7)

Matthew 28:16–20: The Authority of the King

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Commentary

“All power” means complete authority. Christ is not one voice among many, but the King over all creation. His authority extends over nations, families, and individuals, and His command is clear: Go, Teach, Baptize, Teach obedience.

Notice that the goal is not only belief, but obedience. Discipleship is transformation that results in faithful living. Also notice the promise: “I am with you always.” The mission is demanding, but it is not carried out alone. Christ’s presence accompanies His people. Families must understand that Christ’s authority is not abstract. It shapes how we teach, lead, correct, and live daily life.

Acts 1:6–8: Witness Begins at Home and Extends Outward

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Commentary

The disciples were focused on timing and political restoration, but Jesus redirects them to mission. They would receive power through the Holy Spirit. This power is not for personal status but for witness, and the pattern here is clear: witness begins where you are and expands outward.

For families, this means discipleship begins in the home. Children are the first disciples. From there, influence extends into community and beyond. A household that neglects its own children cannot effectively disciple the world.

Deuteronomy 6:6–9: Teaching the Next Generation

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Commentary

Long before the Great Commission, God established a pattern for generational teaching. He intends the instruction to be constant. Truth is woven into our daily lives and this passage reinforces that discipleship is not confined to formal teaching moments. It is lived, spoken, modeled, and repeated.

Families must intentionally structure their homes around the teaching of God's Word because passive exposure is not enough. Diligent instruction produces lasting faith.

Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children

- Who told us to teach others about Him?
- Where can we talk about God?
- Who should we teach first?

Older Children & Teens

- What does it mean to be a witness?
- Why does discipleship begin in the home?
- What does it look like to obey everything Jesus commanded?

Adults

- Is your household actively discipling or passively existing?
 - Are you prioritizing teaching your children above outside obligations?
 - How can your family expand its witness beyond the home?
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Psalm Reading: Psalm 78:4–7

4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

Commentary

This psalm describes true generational faithfulness where one generation teaches the next. And that generation teaches the next again, the goal here is clear: Hope in God, Memory of His works, Obedience to His commands

When families fail to teach, faith weakens across generations, yet when they teach faithfully, truth multiplies across generations.

Hymn: “Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

By Jeffery Rowthorn (1978)

1.

Lord, You give the great commission:
“Heal the sick and preach the Word.”
Lest the Church neglect its mission,
And the Gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to Your purpose

With renewed integrity;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

2.

Lord, You call us to Your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust Your promise,
Life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us
Closer in community;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

3.

Lord, You make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
Daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us
Share Your children's liberty;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

4.

Lord, You show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
All that You so freely give.
May Your care and mercy lead us
To a just society;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

5.

Lord, You bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
May we serve as You intend,
And, amid the cares that claim us,
Hold in mind eternity;

With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Family Application Points

1. Recognize Christ's Authority

Teach your family that Jesus rules over all areas of life - not just church settings.

2. Make Disciples at Home First

Your children are your primary responsibility. Train them intentionally.

3. Teach Obedience, Not Just Knowledge

Discipleship requires action, not information alone.

4. Build Daily Teaching Rhythms

Integrate Scripture into conversations, routines, and decisions.

5. Extend Your Witness

Look for ways your family can reflect Christ beyond the home.

A Sabbath Feast Prayer

Father, we thank You for giving us a mission through Your Son. As we sit at this table, bless this food before us and bless the loving hands that prepared it. Teach our family to walk under Christ's authority and to faithfully pass Your truth to the next generation. Give us strength and wisdom to disciple our children well and to live as witnesses in all we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are King over all creation. Help us to obey Your command to teach and make disciples. Strengthen our home to be a place of truth, instruction, and faithful example. Guard us from passivity and distraction. Give us boldness to live and speak Your truth. May our household reflect Your authority and extend Your Kingdom for generations to come. In Your holy name we pray, Amen.