



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK 3

This week we continued to celebrate all that God has done at Providence Church. Pastor Jacob invited us to look at the vision at the heart of the church. Based on the Great Commission, we explored the call of Jesus to *baptize* and to *teach*, to *go* and to *make* disciples. As followers of Jesus, we are made and gifted with specific gifts and talents that are to be used for a Kingdom purpose. Some of us may be more naturally wired towards reaching lost people and connecting them to Jesus. Others may be more inclined to teach and go deeper in relationship with God. Collectively, the church is called to both evangelism and discipleship. Consider this week how both you and your church are living into this calling.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: PHILIPPIANS 1.3-6

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, ⁵ for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. ⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

- Paul is leaning heavily into the partnership that Jesus followers have with one another as they pursue the advancement of the Good News about Christ. But it is God's work that we are doing as we partner together. God began the work in us, and the job is not done until Jesus comes back and ushers in the fullness of God's Kingdom. Notice how he is not satisfied with church plants that simply baptize new believers. Paul is expressing joy for those believers who respond to the gift of salvation by continuing the work of sharing it with others. **If you are a follower of Jesus, what do you think you were saved from? What do you think you were saved for?**
- *God, this gift of salvation is about far more than me, my family, or my church. Thank you for entrusting me with the work of spreading the Good News of your Son Jesus. Amen.*

TUESDAY: MATTHEW 28.1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² *There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.*

⁵ *The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”*

⁸ *So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”*

- God put on quite a show on Easter morning! An earthquake, an angel, a stone rolled away! As witnesses to what God had done, they could have wanted to remain in the moment—to soak it all in. But the angels said, “go”. “Go and tell his disciples.” This certainly was the pinnacle of the story of Jesus Christ, but it was not the ending of the story. **Imagine yourself at the scene of the empty tomb on Easter morning. Your heart pounding in your chest from a mix of fear and anticipation. The shock of resurrection begins to sink in. But you hear from the angel who rolled the stone away. Where and to whom is the angel sending you?**
- *O Jesus, I want to follow you wherever you lead. I don't know all of the places you are leading me, but I believe you have led me here. Use my voice to share the Good News today. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: MATTHEW 28.16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- These words, known as the Great Commission, have been the mission of disciples ever since. There is no higher calling than to make disciples of Jesus. In true Jesus fashion, he provides a challenge but also comfort and empowerment. His closing words, “I am with you” mirror some of the first words in Matthew (1.23) where we first read the very name for Jesus: Immanuel (God with us). Matthew's account begins and ends with this promise. We are part of a beautiful but challenging story that requires us to respond by making disciples of all nations—continuing the work of Jesus around the world. It's a big world, and there is much work to be done, but we are not alone, ever. **Can you think of a time when Jesus called you out of your comfort zone? How did you know that he was with you?**
- *O God, there is no greater calling than this commission from Jesus to me and to the whole church throughout all of time. May I be a disciple who makes disciples. Amen.*

THURSDAY: ACTS 1.6-9

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ *He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

⁹ *After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

- Jesus was consistent with his message to the disciples. In the moments before the resurrected Jesus ascended into heaven, he reiterated the words of the Great Commission (Matthew 28.18-20). But this time he was specific about how they would experience his presence and power—he would send the Holy Spirit that would provide them with both. Just in case the disciples thought the Great Commission was meant to be metaphorical, he stated it again. You will be witnesses to the ends of the earth. **We will be witnesses to the ends of the earth. What does it mean for you to receive this commission?**
- *Holy Spirit, break into day to day life and let me see your power. May it become my strength for the work ahead. Amen.*

FRIDAY: ROMANS 10.14-17

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

¹⁶ *But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?”¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

- Paul was addressing the plan that Jesus set forth allowing more people to hear the Good News. It required that those who have heard and believed in the message would share it with others. Pretty simple, right? But it's not always easy. There is no guarantee that each attempt at sharing will land on receptive ears and hearts. But we are sent to do this work. **Are there people you know of that have not heard the Good News? What role might you have in bringing it to them?**
- *God, may my feet be the feet that carry Good News to one who has not heard. Amen.*

SATURDAY: 2 TIMOTHY 2.1-2

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

- In one sense, these words from Paul to Timothy point to an “apostolic” teaching where every preacher of the Good News is connected to all those who have gone before. Throughout history, the church has understood this to stand for those who are ordained priests or pastors, and that is true, but it is also true of every disciple. We are called to share what we have been given. **Are there people who stand in a line of witnesses in your life?**
- *God, thank you for the long line of witnesses, known and unknown, that made it possible for me to hear and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

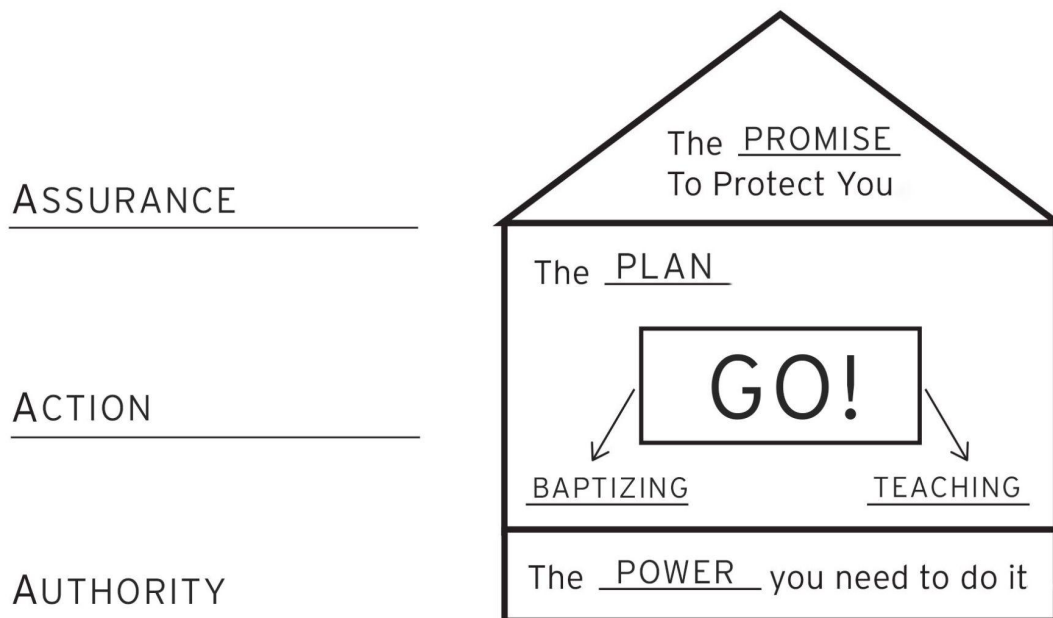
Pastor Jacob used the image below to describe what it looks like to partner with God. Starting with the bottom of the image, he explained the following process:

Partnership with God begins with AUTHORITY from Jesus – the POWER you need to do it.

That leads to ACTION. The PLAN is to GO like Jesus said, BAPTIZING and TEACHING as he instructed us to do.

That is covered by ASSURANCE that God will keep His PROMISE to protect you.

YOUR PURPOSE IS PARTNERSHIP



The life of a disciple of Jesus requires action, it requires us to “go”. How do the concepts in this teaching challenge what you thought it meant to follow Jesus? How do they confirm what you understand about discipleship?