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The Great Commission

Introduction:

Genesis 12:1-3

"...all nations (families) of the earth will be blessed through you..."

Matthew 28:18-20

"As you are going...make disciples...baptize...teaching them to obey..."

The Great Commission – Three Elements:

1. Make _____ of Jesus
 - Radical Dependence
 - Vine-and-branch relationship
2. Equip as _____ of the Gospel
 - Faithful Witness
 - Unashamed to go public
3. Teach _____ to Christ's commands
 - Walk by faith
 - Live in love

The Big Idea:

The Gospel is about what Christ has done for us AND to us! We have been crucified and raised with Him, spiritually. We are the new creation, under the authority of a risen King over an other-worldly kingdom. This is what water Baptism celebrates!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Have you been baptized in water as a believer in Jesus Christ? If so, share about the experience. Where were you, what prompted you to be baptized, etc.?

Ponderings:

2. Baptism literally means "to immerse." When we receive Christ, we are spiritually immersed (baptized) into Christ by the Holy Spirit. Why then do you think water baptism is commanded in the Great Commission even though it's not a requirement of salvation? Discuss...
3. In the Great Commission, Jesus focuses on three things: making disciples, baptizing and teaching people to obey His commands. Calling your attention to the "Vine and the Branches" relationship of John 15, how is discipleship unique under the New Covenant from what it was under the Old? Discuss...
4. 1 John 5:3 says, "in fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome..." The Apostle earlier clarified that these commands are not the Law of Moses, but summarized in two things: faith and love (1 John 3:23). Why are these commands impossible apart from reliance on the empowerment of the Spirit of Christ in us? Discuss...

Promptings:

5. How are you learning to trust Christ to live His life through you, as opposed to striving in your own power to be "more like Jesus?"

How is your unfolding experience of the New Covenant life (as opposed to a life of Old Covenant legalism) creating greater peace, joy and obedience?

What would you tell a person who says, "I'm trying my best to live for Jesus, but I just can't seem to do it...?" Discuss...