

ICB COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

The message this Sunday began a new series following on from the theme of Christ:King. After the amazing miracle of Jesus rising from the dead, there came the question "What next?". Just as the disciples asked themselves that question, we look at Jesus' answer and His charge to them and to us all. Our study today focuses on two big questions: What do we do now? And how are we supposed to accomplish this?

START

Icebreaker: Have you ever been horribly lost? How did you end up finding your way again? Share your stories!!

SHARE

- So much of Jesus' teaching had to do with us becoming people of the kingdom, but now at the end of His time on earth He turned the focus outward and He called the disciples to reproduce what they had seen and experienced for themselves. If you had to share the message of Jesus with someone right now, what essential points would you make sure not to miss?

READ MATTHEW 28: 16-20

- Jesus' final words to the disciples were not rules, or procedures but a charge to share this new life they had been given. Why do you think He chose this as his final statement?
- This passage is quite short but it is an essential part of Christianity! Using your own words what is Jesus calling the disciples (and us) to do and what is He promising in return?
- As they met with the Resurrected Christ, the disciples were expecting *Him* to complete what He had started but yet again, Jesus' way of doing things was totally different. His plan was to use *them* to spread His message. How do you think they would have felt hearing this message?
- What does it mean to be Christ's ambassador, here on earth? What would our lives look like if we put that into practice?

READ MATTHEW 25:14-30

- Who do you identify most with in this parable? Why?
- Compare the response of the Master to each of his servants. What do you think he was looking for when he took account of what the three servants had made?
- Why do you think his reaction was so strong to the last one?

- What does this parable teach us about God and his character? And what should our response be today?

GROW

- God is a missional God and our salvation is for a purpose. The call of discipleship does not stop when we receive Christ, in fact that's just where it starts! As we read in Matthew, God calls us to "make disciples". What does that mean to you?
- How easy do you find it to share with others? What steps can you take to improve how you are discipling those around you?

PRAY

Thank God for the gift of salvation and pray that He would show you how you can best share it with others. Ask God to put a person (or people) on your heart to "disciple" in the next months, pray for opportunities to talk to that person and creativity to show Jesus' love to them.

GO

As we look for opportunities to disciple others and draw people to Christ we can take strength from the fact that we are not doing this alone. God promised to give us a "Helper" - The Holy Spirit, to equip and empower us! Go into each conversation and encounter this week safe in the knowledge that He is with you and He will be the one who does the everlasting work in people's lives, as you let yourself be a vessel for Him! As it says in Zechariah 4:6 "not by might, nor by strength, but by my Spirit says the Lord!"

Read more about The Great Commission: Matthew 28:16-20 and the Parable of the Talents Matthew 25: 14-30 and Luke 19:12-27.