

**28:16-20.** Matthew did not record the meeting of **Jesus** with the 10 disciples later that same day (John 20:19-23) or the appearance 8 days later to **the 11 disciples** (John 20:24-29). But he did record an appearance occurring some time later in **Galilee**, where He promised He would meet them (Matt. 26:32; cf. 28:7, 10) at a **mountain**. Which mountain He specified is unknown. When Jesus appeared **they worshiped Him, but some doubted**. Since Jesus had appeared to them earlier and verified Himself to them, they were not doubting the Resurrection. There was probably simply a brief question among some of them as to whether this was truly Jesus appearing to them. There was no indication that any miraculous element was involved in His being there and since unusual circumstances had occurred with previous visits, perhaps they wondered.

Their doubts were quickly dispelled, for **Jesus spoke to them** claiming **all authority in heaven and on earth**. This authority (*exousia*, “official right or power”) had been given to Jesus by the Father and now He was instructing the disciples to **go** on the basis of that authority. Their field was to include **all nations**, not just Israel (see comments on 10:5-6). They were to **make disciples** by proclaiming the truth concerning Jesus. Their hearers were to be evangelized and enlisted as Jesus’ followers. Those who believed were to be baptized in water **in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**. Such an act would associate a believer with the person of Jesus Christ and with the Triune God. The God whom they served is one God and yet is three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Those who respond are also to be taught the truths Jesus had specifically communicated to the Eleven. Not all that Jesus taught the disciples was communicated by them but they did teach specific truths for the new Church Age as they went abroad. Jesus’ commission, applicable to all His followers, involved one command, “Make disciples,” which is accompanied by three participles in the Greek: “going,” **baptizing**, and **teaching**.

The final words of the Lord recorded by Matthew were a promise that He would **be with** them **always** until **the very end of the Age**. Though the Lord did not remain physically with the Eleven, His spiritual presence was with them until their tasks on earth were finished. These final words of the Lord were carried out by the apostles as they went everywhere, proclaiming the story of their Messiah, Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews.

*Taken from the Bible Knowledge Commentary, Dallas Theological Seminary*

# Small Group Bible Study

Week of Sept 9, 2007



## This study...

- The God Supremacy
- Matthew 28:16-20
- A look at the Great Commission
- A look at the Sovereignty of God



Written by  
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# Bible Study

## The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16 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."

**Warm-ups:** When do you have trouble submitting to authorities? When do you appreciate authorities the most?

### Verse By Verse: 16

- Remember, this story is after the resurrection. What do you think were the disciples' anticipations for this meeting?
- How had the disciples' expectations for their own lives changed through the phases of Jesus the teacher, Jesus the crucified and Jesus the resurrected?

17

- How is it possible to doubt when the risen Jesus is right in front of you? Does that make your times of doubting easier to understand?
- Can this doubt be part of an authority problem?

18

- Jesus identified two sources of authority. What's the difference between heavenly and earthly authority?
- If Jesus has ultimate authority, what are the real reasons we're disobedient? (we don't really believe it, we're naturally rebellious, we don't understand the consequences)

19

- After Jesus invokes His ultimate authority, he uses it to command us to do something. What is it?
- How are we doing with that command?

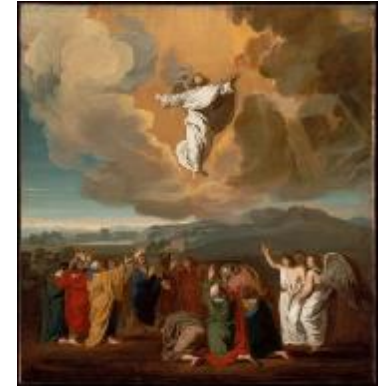
For life change...

# Application

## So What Does It All Mean?

Identify some specific areas of difficulty in submitting to the authority of God. Then, as a group find ways to get these areas under control.

Name some area/life needs where you are comforted by Christ's authority over all things. Offer each one up as a praise.



### Rules for our small group:

**Priority:** While you are in the group, you give the group meeting priority.

**Participation:** Everyone participate and no one dominates.

**Respect:** Everyone is given right to their own opinion and all questions are encouraged and respected.

**Confidentiality:** Everything that is said in this meeting is never to be repeated outside this meeting.

**Empty Chair:** The group stays open to new people at every meeting.

**Support:** Permission is given to call on one another in time of need—even in the middle of the night.

**Advice Giving:** Unsolicited advice is not allowed. We're here to support one another, not to fix one another.

**Mission:** We agree to do everything in our power to start a new group as our mission.