

Week and Easter. Now this may seem like a daunting task to take on, but this is not your task to bear alone, we journey together. We recognize ourselves in the disciples and we are called to trust and follow the Risen Christ who seeks and finds the lost.

So where is the church program that will make us into disciples? That will help us to go and make more disciples and teach?.

Well there isn't one, discipleship isn't just a program you sign up for—it's the heartbeat of our church. It's a culture where every person is committed to helping one another grow to be more like Christ. And I truly believe this is one of the beautiful strengths of our church family—we are gifted at walking alongside each other in love, grace, and growth and following Jesus.

I hear you regularly speak life into one another—building each other up with love, grace, and truth (Ephesians 4:29). No gossip, no judgment, just honest encouragement to keep growing in faith. Everyone walks with someone—learning, praying, and helping each other stay close to Jesus (Titus 2:1-8, Galatians 6:1-2). There's no pressure to "have it all together." Instead, people celebrate small steps of growth and cheer each other on as they become more like Jesus (Philippians 1:6). We have a safe space here to admit struggles, seek help, and receive forgiveness. Grace isn't just a sermon topic—it's a way of life (James 5:16,

Colossians 3:13).

Every person, no matter their age or background, is empowered to use their gifts to serve one another and build up the church (1 Peter 4:10, Romans 12:4-8). People show up for each other—in sickness, in grief, in need. Meals are shared, prayers are lifted, burdens are carried together (Acts 2:44-47, Romans 12:15). We pray for each other, it's our rhythm of the church. The goal isn't just being "nice" or "good"—it's helping each other follow Jesus more closely, becoming more loving, humble, and holy day by day (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Discipleship not only begins here in our church but also it begins in our homes, with parents, grandparents and guardians, discipling our children and it should have a ripple effect where we all help each other grow, just like when you throw a pebble in water.

There's no finish line when it comes to discipleship—because it's not just a program we attend, it's a way of life, a shared commitment to help one another become more like Jesus each day. And I truly believe that's one of the most beautiful strengths of our church family. We walk together—in love, in grace, and in the daily journey of following Christ. May we continue to live out that calling, side by side.

In Jesus name, Amen.

## ***“The Great Commission: Go, Make, Teach”***

*April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 — Selby United Church*

*Scripture Matthew 28:16-20*

*By Tricia Cammaart*

Over the past few weeks, we've been on a powerful journey. It began with Jesus riding into the Holy City on a donkey, stirring the hearts of the crowd with hope and anticipation for the long-awaited Messiah. On Thursday, He shared the Last Supper with His disciples. On Friday, He was crucified. On Holy Saturday, He descended to the imprisoned spirits—and then, on Sunday, came the glorious resurrection.

In this scripture reading in Matthew, called the Great Commission, it takes place in Galilee about 40 days after Jesus' resurrection. For **40 days**, Jesus appeared to His disciples and others, when he appeared to them he taught them about the **kingdom of God**, and prepared them for what was to come.

Matthew 28 verse 17 says “When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted”

The idea of someone coming back from the dead—even though Jesus had **predicted it**—was still overwhelming. The resurrection turned everything upside down. The disciples' minds and hearts were trying to catch up with the events of what was happening. Some questions the disciples may have wrestled with, does God really love me? Would God still want me after everything I've done? Am I too

broken to belong? This kind of doubt is very human, and even the disciples I am sure wrestled with it, especially after they had abandoned Jesus.

It was also hesitation or the feeling of being torn, kind of like **unsure belief**. The disciples were still learning how to see Jesus differently. Before, they followed a physical teacher and leader. Now, Jesus had risen—**glorified**—and their understanding of who He truly was, was still **developing**. That kind of shift takes time.

Then Jesus instructed his disciples “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...”

And so the apostles went, and where the apostles went, action swirled, riots erupted and churches took root.

I'd like to take a step back and look at how the disciples came to follow Jesus. Some were called by Jesus directly. Jesus just called to them to follow him and they did, just like Matthew as I talked about on Palm Sunday. Some were looking for a

Messiah, some were drawn to Jesus by his miracles, his teaching, his divine authority. Some of the disciples felt purpose to their lives when they followed Jesus.

### We are called to be disciples

I think that we can relate to the calling of the disciples and how we individually came to follow Jesus. Some of us are called to Jesus directly. Some of us are looking for a Messiah to worship, some of us are drawn to his teachings and divine authority and some of us it gives our lives purpose to follow Jesus. And as we create this relationship with Jesus, we could have feelings of doubt. All of this, Easter season, is very overwhelming, our hearts and minds are trying to catch up. And so we have hesitations, the feeling like we are being torn, the **unsure belief**. The idea of who Jesus was and is, could still be developing in our minds. Coming to Jesus is a shift that takes time, sometimes years.

Maybe you have wrestled with unsure belief in your lifetime.

For example, if you have ever studied for a test for school, you feel 100% prepared, then the test lands on your desk and you look at the paper and your mind goes blank? Maybe you think I am not smart enough, even though you are fully prepared, you have unsure belief of your own ability.

Maybe you texted or emailed a friend or a family member and you have had no reply from them, you start to wonder if they are

mad at me for something, did I do something wrong, that unsure belief in being accepted or valued as a friend.

Maybe you pray for something and you don't see an answer right away, and you ask if God is even listening to me, that unsure belief in God's love or timing.

These moments of unsure belief don't make us bad—they make us human. We see that even with the disciples, Jesus' closest friends and followers, had these doubts.

Jesus tells the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. And so successful they were, just look at each one of us as a disciple. 2000 years later, all of us are Jesus' disciples. And I think that most of us would say yes if we were asked if we were disciples of Jesus. But would we say if we are asked are we discipling others? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

Jesus' command was to **MAKE** disciples not just be disciples.

### Go, Make, Teach the mission of the disciples

Life for the disciples after the Great Commission was **anything but easy**—but their dedication to discipleship was **incredibly meaningful**. They stepped into their purpose with boldness, bringing the message of Jesus to the world, even in the face of danger, opposition, and sacrifice. They became missionaries leaving their homes and began spreading

the gospel far and wide. Peter preached across Israel and eventually went to Rome. Thomas is believed to have gone as far as India. John traveled and wrote letters to encourage the early church. Paul (not one of the original 12 but later called) traveled across the Roman Empire spreading the gospel and starting churches. They faced persecution and danger, they were arrested, beaten, threatened, imprisoned—and most were eventually killed for their faith.

They built the early church, they were leaders, teachers, and encouragers. They taught new believers, helped settle disputes, and created communities that cared for the poor, the sick, and the outcasts. After the Great Commission, the disciples lived lives of **faith, courage, and service**. They faced hardship, but they were **filled with purpose, guided by the Holy Spirit, and driven by love** for Jesus and the people He came to save. They walked with Jesus into the unknown.

The resurrection wasn't just about **proving Jesus was alive**—it was about launching **a movement** that spread to the whole world. Our discipleship does not begin with what we do, but with something Christ did. Discipleship begins with his grace, his mercy, a relationship with God and the promise of eternal life.

### Go Make Teach: the mission of us

Jesus tells us to Go, Make, Teach. The disciples were to make disciples of all nations and so now here we are!

And so how do we do it? How do we be disciples? Where do we start? We can start with love, it can begin with the love of God, and by loving all of those around us. The first great commandment: “And you shall love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (Mark12:30). The second greatest commandment is “You shall love your neighbour as you love yourself” These 2 commandments fulfill the duty of love, which will make us great disciples.

To be a disciple doesn't mean to just do good, no, we must be in a relationship with God and we must love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. And then we share that love and through this act we are demonstrating this love for God.

If you remain in Jesus, he will remain in you, and if you are evident in your love for others, God will use you to help others grow to be more like Christ.

But just like the disciples, it can be anything but easy! If you have ever done children's ministry you know what I mean!

But just like the disciples we must live on our faith, ask God for **courage**, and then serve. **GO, MAKE, TEACH**. We are filled with purpose and often guided by the Holy Spirit and driven by love.

Our life of discipleship hinges on the events of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We are only disciples because of Lent, Holy