

# CONNECT 40



FORTY DAYS OF  
**EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP**  
JULY 28 - SEPT 5

**SUNDAYS**  
**Connect 40**

July 28 – September 5  
10:00 AM Service  
Conclusion: September 8

**CONNECT GROUPS**  
**LEADER TRAININGS\***

Thu, Aug 22 7:00 PM  
Sat, Aug 24 10:30 AM

**GROUPS EXPO**  
Sun, Sep 1

**NEXT STEPS**  
**SATURDAY\***

Sat, Sep 7 10:30 AM  
+ *Dream Team Expo*

**DREAM TEAM EXPO**  
Sun, Sep 8

**WATER BAPTISM\***  
Sun, Aug 25

\*Register Online

If you have any questions about the events, please email  
us [info@linkedupnorth.com](mailto:info@linkedupnorth.com)

## ***Why 40 Days?***

The Bible tells us that in just 40 days, God worked miracles, changed people's hearts, and helped them become better in big ways. In 40 days, complete transformation can happen!

Here are a few examples of how God has shown Himself powerful in just 40 days:

- Genesis 7:7-12 | Noah and his family were on the ark while God was remaking the earth by the rain and flood over 40 days.
- Exodus 34:28 | Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai, where God released the Ten Commandments.
- Numbers 13:25 | The twelve spies spent 40 days in the Promised Land.
- 1 Samuel 17:16 | Young David was challenged and transformed by Goliath's 40 day challenge.
- Jonah 3:4 | The city of Nineveh was changed by the prophet Jonah's teaching about what would happen in the next 40 days if they didn't repent.
- Luke 4:2 | Jesus was empowered for ministry by spending 40 days in the wilderness.
- Acts 1:3 | The disciples were transformed by spending 40 days with Jesus after the resurrection.

These stories from the Bible teach us that when a group of people gather and have faith—through times of testing, purifying, and preparing—God can and does change them.

Over the next 40 days, our focus here at Linked UP North is on Evangelism & Discipleship. This book is a guide to resetting our perspective and equipping ourselves to be on a mission to win more people to Christ. We believe this is God's priority for His people: we must reach out in love to the world with the good news of God's forgiveness, peace, and hope through Jesus Christ. This is God's perfect plan for us to fulfill His vision for Linked UP North as we connect people to God, Family, Purpose, and Community.

## **Connect 40**

### ***Evangelism & Discipleship***

#### ***Called to Action:***

#### ***The Commission That Changed the World***

Jesus remained on earth for 40 days before ascending into heaven. While on earth, He appeared to His disciples and others who were mourning Him. They were wrestling with doubts about the truths He had shared regarding His life and His purpose. However, witnessing Him in His risen state comforted them, reaffirmed His teachings, and confirmed His victory over death. Now, they knew without a doubt that Jesus is the Son of God. He is the Good Shepherd, the fulfillment of the Law, the Messiah, and the Anointed One.

Yet, in His return, Jesus did not simply come to comfort and provide evidence of His resurrection. He had a greater purpose of preparing His followers for their part of the mission now that His was complete. So, on a mountain in Galilee, Jesus gave a command—the Great Commission.

## **OUR MISSION:** *The Great Commission*

Matthew 28: 16-20 NKJV

*Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.*

*<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,*



*baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

More than 2,000 years later, the Great Commission is still being fulfilled and the Gospel of Jesus Christ continues to transform lives. This is the charge of Christian evangelism and discipleship.

## ***Getting Involved in Connect 40***

Our desire is that everyone would participate in Connect 40 with a Community Group of your household and/or friends or family outside your household. The discussion guides are written for any group of people of all ages to grow relationally as they study the weekly messages together.

### **Using This Guide**

This book contains six discussion guides that align with Pastor George's weekly teachings during Connect 40. These guides provide the study material for your Community Groups, helping you remember important insights to discuss with your group.

#### **COMMUNITY GROUP:**

a small group led by a H.O.S.T. who fosters community by bringing people together weekly around the sermon discussion guides.

Each discussion guide is written to help you recall the message and includes scriptures to study and reflect on. Ultimately, it is intended to direct your Community Group conversations and provides weekly actions to encourage you to apply what you've learned.

## Weekly Actions

During each week of Connect 40, we have included evangelism and discipleship challenges to help participants of all ages apply what they've learned. Each of the Weekly Actions align with the Great Commission from Matthew 28:16-20. Every believer—whether an adult, youth, someone with special needs, married, or single—has an opportunity to meaningfully participate.

We will delve into the weekly actions more, but here is a quick snapshot to give you an idea of what to expect. Review this list to start thinking about how you will pray over and complete each one.

 <p><b>CONNECT 40</b></p> <p><b>WEEKLY ACTIONS</b></p>	<b>1</b>	<b>Reflect on Jesus' authority over your life.</b>
	<b>2</b>	<b>Share your faith with an unbeliever.</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>Become a spiritual mentor and support their faith journey.</b>
	<b>4</b>	<b>Invite someone from a different culture, race, or ethnicity to church.</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>Pursue water baptism or encourage someone else to do so.</b>
	<b>6</b>	<b>Register for Linked UP classes to further your growth.</b>

## Actively Engaging

Here is how you can commit to being actively involved over the next 40 days.



**Win 1.** Prayerfully commit to share the faith and/or lead at least one person to Christ by the end of Connect 40. Leverage the salvation message and scriptures on the following pages. You can

also ask your group host for support.

**Stick to a schedule.** Commit to attending Sunday services (in-person or online) and prioritize attending the weekly Community Group meetings led by your host.

**Engage fully.** Read the weekly devotional, study the scriptures, and discuss the provided questions with your group. Work toward completing each of the weekly actions.

**Support each other.** Be honest about your efforts and maintain open and authentic communication to enrich your group discussions.

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*For those hosting a group,* please refer to the separate **H.O.S.T. Guide** for additional resources on hosting a group and facilitating your meetings from fellowship to prayer.

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# *Who will you share the Gospel with?*

God desires everyone to know Him. As followers of Christ, we are called to partner with God by going after and praying for those who do not know Him.

Think about the people you know who are unsaved. Let your heart be open to God and anyone He may bring to your mind. Write their name in the space below as you pray for them.



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*(Write their name.)*

*Father, I pray for \_\_\_\_\_. I pray that You would supernaturally draw their hearts to You. Send Your Holy Spirit to them and give them the desire to give their life to You. Help them recognize their longing for more in life as a spiritual thirst that only You can quench. Open their ears to hear Your voice. Amen.*

## Leading Someone to Christ

To lead someone to Christ, you can share this message, pray with them, and read the following scriptures.

**66** Salvation is a gift freely given by God through Jesus Christ. It's not about what we do to earn it, but about accepting it by faith. John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Salvation comes through confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. It's a simple yet profound decision—the most important you'll ever make.

When you invite Christ into your life, He forgives your sins and cleanses you. This doesn't mean life will be without challenges, but you won't face them alone. Jesus walks with you. If you're ready to receive Him, bow your head, close your eyes, and pray: **99**

## Salvation Prayer

"Dear Heavenly Father, I confess with my mouth, and I believe in my heart that you raised Jesus from the dead for me. And right now, I make Jesus the Lord and Savior of my life. Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross for my sins and thank You for being raised from the dead for me! Right now, I declare that I am a child of God, and Jesus is Lord of my life! Amen."

## Scriptures

Ephesians 2:8-10

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are*

*His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**Romans 10:9-10**

*...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*



## ***Everything You Need***

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."*

Matthew 28:18

### **Supreme Authority**

**After Jesus rose from the grave, He gathered His disciples and said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Therefore, nothing is outside of His loving sovereignty. His authority extends beyond the grave and even death could not hold Him.**

Jesus' triumph over *death* canceled our sins, gave us eternal life, and made us *alive* in Him. But that's not all His death, burial, and resurrection provided for us. He also shared His authority with believers and gave them supernatural abilities through the Holy Spirit, declaring that they would do "even greater works" (John 14:12). At that time, His followers were few, but now, there are billions worldwide...and our work continues.

Jesus entrusted His followers with His authority and deposited the Holy Spirit in each of us. We have a great responsibility to lovingly lead others to freedom and experience life transformed by His grace—because if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed! (John 8:36)

### **Boldly Sharing with Words and Actions**

Each of us has everything we need to spread the Gospel. Carrying His authority while we are on His mission should take away any fear and doubt. It is important that a Christian can explain the Gospel to an unbeliever in a

simple and practical way. Additionally, we should be equipped to help those who are out of fellowship with God to return back to Him.

Living out the Christian life is essential, but we must also engage the hearts and minds of unbelievers with the Gospel's message. This means demonstrating the Gospel through our actions and communicating it with words. You may be the only “Jesus” that someone would ever see, so our actions should reflect the grace of God that is upon us. Jesus opened our minds to understand the scriptures (Luke 24:45). Therefore, both understanding scripture and demonstrating our faith is necessary and should be combined to effectively reach, save, and transform lives.

### **Why Us, Why Now?**

We live in a world where Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers to the truth and actively seeks those he can devour (1 Peter 5:8). Satan would be delighted if we did not share the Gospel or hesitated to do so out of fear or concern for how it would be received. As long as people do not hear the Gospel, they remain blind, enslaved to their sin, and susceptible to Satan's attacks. When the light of the glorious gospel shines on them, Satan's power is broken, and they become free in Christ. The message of salvation transcends all boundaries, and we must avoid adding divisions or limitations that Christ has already removed.

Every follower of Christ is empowered to participate in the Great Commission. Our responsibility is to let our light shine and share the good news. The urgency is real. Without our witness, people remain unaware of the life-saving message of Jesus Christ or isolated and susceptible to Satan's attacks.

God loved the world so much that even while we were sinners, He gave His Son Jesus who with all authority, sent His followers to continue His work on earth. Let's be glad and confident about spreading the good news and making disciples.

## Summary

- **Supreme Authority.** We are ambassadors with authority from God. This position empowers confidence and effectiveness in fulfilling His mission. No soul is beyond God's power, and we are authorized to join God in doing what only He can do. This mission cannot fail.
- **Boldly Sharing with Words and Actions.** Living a Christian life and engaging unbelievers with the Gospel through words and actions is essential.
- **Why Us, Why Now?** To lovingly obey God, and because so many people still remain unaware of Jesus' life-saving message, they have yet to experience God's grace.

## Scriptures

Matthew 28:18

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'*

John 14:12

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

John 8:36

*Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

Luke 24:45

*And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

1 Peter 5:8

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Acts 1:8

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

2 Corinthians 5:20

*Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

Romans 10:14-15

*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'*

**John 15:16**

*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

**Romans 1:16**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

*And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

**Talk About It**

- 1) Jesus' victory over death assures us of eternal life and the power of God to overcome challenges. In what ways does His victory impact your daily life and faith?
- 2) Understanding how to effectively share and explain the Gospel is important for expanding the kingdom. How can you become better at sharing and presenting the gospel to an unbeliever or someone who is out of fellowship with God?

- 3) Many people in society are experiencing profound emptiness, confusion, and a lack of purpose, which may make them feel lost. Why do you think sharing the Gospel in today's world is important?  
[Hint: 2 Corinthians 4:3-4]

### Weekly Action

When Jesus rose from the dead, He said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." He then shared His authority with us. Think about the authority of Jesus in your life. Thank God for the grace that has been provided since you gave your life to Christ. What areas in your life are currently challenging you?

Identify one or two challenging areas, find scriptures that speak to God's promises concerning those areas, read the scriptures aloud and begin declaring your victory over it in Jesus' Name!

### Pre-School / Elementary

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#### Be Free.

*Read John 8:36*

Do you know what peer pressure is? It's when kids feel like they need to do, have, or wear the same things as everyone else. Many kids feel this way and sometimes worry about being left out if they don't follow along. But guess what? You don't have to feel that pressure.

**Basic Truth:** You have a friend who thinks you're amazing just the way you are, and His name is Jesus. His opinion of you is the one that matters most.

**Weekly Virtue:** This week, be free to be yourself. You can share what you like, stand up for what you believe in, or choose not to follow the crowd.





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**Middle School / High School**

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Jesus had all the authority, but He still relied on others. The world needs leaders—people who understand that they can't do everything by themselves. Just like Jesus, who didn't work alone but had twelve disciples to help Him.

# ***The Great Commission, Not the Great Suggestion***

*“...Go therefore and make disciples...”*

Matthew 28:19

After receiving salvation, every believer is called to the ministry of reconciliation. This calling doesn't just apply to Pastors or Ministers within the local church. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus delivered the Great Commission. He directly tells the disciples and essentially all His followers—then and all those that would come in the future—that they must “Go” and share the good news of the gospel. That is evangelism.



**With the help of God's grace  
and the power of the Holy  
Spirit, every believer can and  
should share the good news  
and help the kingdom grow by  
obeying the Great  
Commission.**

## **Evangelism, Discipleship, or Both?**

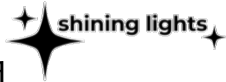
Both. Evangelism and discipleship are meant to be part of the daily lives of Christians. Evangelism is simply announcing the good news of Jesus and spreading the Gospel. Discipleship, on the other hand, is the process that occurs after someone becomes a believer. It involves learning to love and follow Jesus while becoming more like Him in our attitudes and actions. The Great Commission involves both evangelism and discipleship.

All of us are flawed, and so were the disciples chosen by Jesus. Yet, He has still called each of us to undertake the Great Commission. Evangelism is just the beginning, but discipleship is the ultimate goal. Just telling someone about Jesus or the Gospel without guiding them on how to embrace it and make it a part of their lives is not enough. It's like showing them the way but not leading them there.

### **Go in His Name: Perfectionism Not Required**

When we go in the name of Jesus and the authority He has provided us, perfectionism becomes irrelevant. All Christians are called to this work according to their abilities, opportunities, and callings. Our weaknesses are covered, and we are supernaturally empowered by obeying the Great Commission. Making a Gospel impact in people's lives doesn't come only through our strengths, but also through our weaknesses. God does this so that His power will be displayed through our weaknesses, and He will receive all the glory (2 Corinthians 12:9).

We can build on this evangelistic authority given to us through daily prayer, study of the Word, and reliance on the Holy Spirit to guide us in winning souls. However, getting started is much simpler than that. All we need to do is to believe and be obedient in sharing the good news of eternal salvation that has transformed our lives.

Jesus instructed us to "Go" and spread the message of His love and salvation so that others may know Him, love Him, and follow Him. He  wants us to be shining lights in a dark world and committed to building people up in Christ. Having received such a rich and perfect gift, our excitement should overflow, and we should boldly and eagerly share the good

news with others—our family, friends, or coworkers. Perfectionism has no place in this mission.

## **Winning Souls "As You Go"**

Bringing the Gospel message to the world surpasses the capabilities of any one individual. You may have heard someone pray before delivering a sermon, "Less of me, and more of You." The "You" they are referring to is the Holy Spirit. Evangelism is empowered by the Holy Spirit rather than clever video announcements, church events, classes, or sermons. Within the body of believers, we **all** possess unique gifts to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission.

Consider the evangelistic example of Jesus with the Samaritan woman (John 4:7-42). In an everyday interaction with this woman at the well, Jesus is effective (simply offering living water), culturally adept (observing her circumstances), and His approach was practical and repeatable (for the disciples to follow). We don't need to wait to bring people to church or confront them with a message of hell or damnation. However, we can become more equipped to win souls by following Jesus' example. He did so through everyday interactions like going to get water.

## **Discipleship in Connect Groups**

At Linked UP North, we offer Connect Groups where members and non-members, believers and unbelievers are welcomed, and relationships are



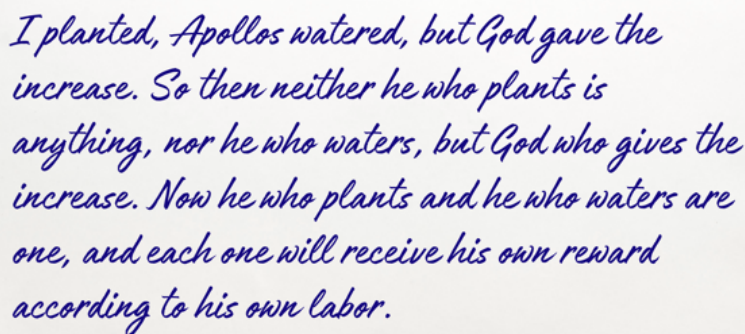
*Connect Groups*

built. In these groups, people are evangelized and discipled all outside of the four walls of the church. Reaching people with the good news of the Gospel is personal, intimate, and rooted in relationships. It's hand-to-hand through Serve

Projects, person-by-person in Connect Groups, and found in the common ordinary situations of life.

Your job might be to plant the seed by speaking a kind word that turns somebody toward God. Your role might be feeding people experiencing homelessness, rescuing an orphan, or caring for a widow. Evangelism can happen through simple acts of kindness and demonstrating Christ as we go about our daily lives.

In Connect Groups, evangelism doesn't have to involve deep study, although intensive study can be an essential aspect of discipleship. You can simply have a group of people doing "life" together and demonstrating Jesus in their attitudes, and by doing so the seed of salvation is planted (1 Corinthians 3:6-8).



*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

*1 Corinthians 3:6-8 (NKJV)*

## Will You Go?

There is eternal significance in leading others to Christ: “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few” (Mathew 9:37). We will be accountable for how we carry out our mission. This is not something to be taken lightly.

We are on a mission to impact the world with the kingdom of God. When we are united in our unique gifts and have Holy Spirit empowerment, we can step out in faith and engage in evangelism as we live our everyday lives.

Time is limited—Let's Go!

## Summary

The Great Commission is not optional. It is the mission every believer should be on. It's not just for pastors or ministers. All Christians are instructed to "Go" and share the good news of salvation (evangelism), and we don't have to be perfect to do it.

- **Evangelism → Discipleship.** Evangelism spreads the Gospel. Discipleship is the process of believers learning to love, follow, and become more like Jesus. We can do both by living Christian principles as we go about our lives.
- **Eternal Significance.** There's eternal significance in leading others to Christ. Despite the importance, there's a shortage of laborers.
- **Call to Action.** Believers are urged to unite their gifts, rely on Holy Spirit empowerment, and engage in evangelism in their communities. Time is limited, so urgency is necessary.



**Scriptures**

Matthew 28:19

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

Joshua 1:9 NLT

*This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

Isaiah 59:21 NLT

*"And this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit will not leave them, and neither will these words I have given you. They will be on your lips and on the lips of your children and your children's children forever. I, the LORD, have spoken!"*

Proverbs 11:30

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,  
And he who wins souls is wise.*

Matthew 9:35-38 NKJV

*Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. <sup>36</sup> But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. <sup>38</sup> Therefore*

*pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

### 1 Corinthians 3:7-8

*So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. <sup>8</sup> Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

### 2 Corinthians 12:9

*And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

### Isaiah 6:8-9

*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:  
 "Whom shall I send,  
 And who will go for Us?"  
 Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."  
<sup>9</sup> And He said, "Go, and tell this people:  
 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand;  
 Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'*

## Talk about It

- 1) How does Jesus' willingness to break cultural norms for that time and engage with the Samaritan woman challenge our perceptions or prejudices? What can we learn from Jesus' example in reaching out to those who may have "a past?"
- 2) Jesus' words and actions caused the Samaritan woman to share her faith with others in her

community. How does this inspire you to share your faith?

- 3) Attending church is not just so that our needs are met or for self-improvement, but so that we will be well-equipped and encouraged to care for others. How can we expand our focus when we attend church from what we can receive to how we can evangelize or build up others?

## Weekly Action

When the time is right, share your faith and the message of Jesus. In John 4, Jesus reached out to one person, the Samaritan woman, who then shared her experience with others, leading many to believe. Just as Jesus reached one who then reached many, each of us can reach one to spread His message.

## Pre-School / Elementary

*You are a **disciple**.*

*Read Matthew 28:19*

*Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)*

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

When we share God's love with others, we make the world better.

**Basic Truth:** God loves us and wants us to share that love with everyone!

**Weekly Virtue:** This week, find one way to show kindness to someone each day. It could be helping a friend, sharing with a sibling, or saying something nice to someone who looks sad.



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## **Middle School / High School**

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Pray first. Then, reach out to someone new—perhaps a classmate or a neighbor. Share your beliefs about why you love Jesus and ask them about theirs. You could share what you love about your church, the growth you’ve experienced in God, or the lessons you learn by coming to The PLUG.

## ***Disciples, Make Disciples.***

*“...Go therefore and make disciples...”*

Matthew 28:19

A disciple is someone who follows and learns from another person, striving to embody their teachings and character. In Christianity, being a disciple means more than just knowing about Jesus or reading the Word of God—it's about growing in a close relationship with Him and becoming more like Him in our daily lives. Furthermore, a disciple embraces the responsibility of mentoring others, guiding them toward spiritual growth and encouraging them to mentor or disciple another believer. It's like a chain reaction where one person teaches another, and it keeps going.

**The goal is to evangelize someone from a life of sin into eternal salvation and facilitate transformation. This transformation involves individuals becoming devoted followers of Christ, living out His teachings in every aspect of their lives, and fulfilling His Great Commission.**

### **Gathered & “Scattered”**

Obedience to discipleship protects us from the schemes of the enemy by fostering close, accountable relationships (1 Peter 5:8). Merely attending church on Sundays and listening to dynamic messages from the pulpit falls short of fulfilling Jesus' final instructions. Gathering together to attend church is important. Inviting others is excellent. Scripture affirms that we should not forsake gathering (Hebrews 10:24-25), but let's not stop there. Let's also commit to small gatherings and close relationships.

Jesus ministered in large crowds (Sermon on the Mount, feeding 4,000 and 5,000). Still, He maintained a balanced ministry and gave significant time to His disciples. Their intimate meetings allowed for personal interactions and the formation of great relationships. By embracing ministry in “gatherings” and “scattered” from house to house (Acts 2:46-47, Acts 5:42), we become more like Jesus as we emulate His model for community.

### **He Is Your Life**

Colossians 3:1-2 MSG

*So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.*

### **Spiritual Parenting and Iron Sharpening**

Christians are called to nurture their own spiritual children, even if they lack biological or familial ties. This discipleship process can be challenging, like parenting with ups and downs, uncertainties, and setbacks. However, despite the challenges, it's a rewarding endeavor to contribute to their growth and development. Spiritual parenting requires patience, grace, and perseverance as believers faithfully invest in the lives of others and trust in God's transformative power.

At Linked UP North, Connect Groups are incubators for spiritual growth. In these groups, trained Connect Group leaders provide overall care and guidance to their



groups. Meanwhile, all group members provide mutual support to each other. The focus is on intentionally and relationally investing in the spiritual growth and maturity of "newborn" believers, helping them progress from needing spiritual milk to being able to provide spiritual meat to another (Hebrews 5:12-14). Eventually, these believers are equipped to disciple others, creating a non-stop cycle of spiritual mentorship and growth.

### **The Process, Not the Result**

Like raising biological children into responsible adults, discipleship requires perseverance and faith. The spiritual growth of a person may not always be visible. Just as seeds grow beneath the soil before emerging as plants, discipleship involves unseen growth nurtured by the Word of God and the support of other believers. In Mark 4:26-29, Jesus shared a parable of the growing seed to illustrate this concept.

Your witness to others may seem insignificant and your influence limited, but the Word of God is powerful. As stated in 1 Corinthians 3:6-8, one person may plant the

*the process, not the result*



seed while another waters it, but ultimately, God causes the growth. Therefore, whether you are planting or watering, your efforts contribute to God's work, and both will be rewarded. Remain positive in the face of challenges or discouragement. Remember, we do not transform people—God handles that. We aim to be present and available in whatever situation God places us. So, keep your focus on the future harvest by being faithful in your service, knowing that your labor in discipleship is not in vain.

### **Connect to Family**

Beyond just attending Sunday services, we envision our church growing “larger” (congregation) and “smaller” (Connect Groups) simultaneously—not for numbers, but for each person’s spiritual growth and the expansion of the kingdom. We don’t want growth without depth. Our weekend services provide *celebration, inspiration, preparation, information, and salvation*. However, life *transformation* happens in the context of intentional relationships and that transpires in Connect Groups. In Acts 20:20, we see that ministry takes place from house to house, emphasizing the importance of intimate community found in Connect Groups.

Join us in praying that while Sunday congregation numbers may grow, the intimacy in Connect Groups also flourishes. They are the setting for connection, protection, and spiritual growth.

Connect groups provide:

- **Connection:** individuals with similar interests or life stages create a sense of belonging and understanding. (1 Corinthians 9:22 TLB)

- **Protection:** in safe and supportive groups, members find spiritual support, share their faith journey, seek advice, and offer protection through prayer from challenges they may face. They help each other navigate life's difficulties with the strength and support of their community. (1 John 3:16 NLT)
- **Growth:** foster personal and spiritual growth, encouraging members to identify and fulfill their God given purpose. (Proverbs 27:17 BSB)

To truly disciple others, we should study Jesus' example. And we must position ourselves to receive from believers who are more mature than ourselves and invest in others who are less mature—each one, win one.

Will you step up and disciple?

## Summary

Discipleship is following Jesus' teachings and helping others grow in their faith.

- **Gathered & “Scattered.”** It's not just about attending church but also building close, supportive relationships. In Connect Groups at Linked UP North, members support each other like a family, helping each other grow spiritually.
- **The Process, Not the Result.** Discipleship takes patience and faith because growth may happen slowly, like seeds growing, but our efforts are valuable and will be rewarded by God.
- **Spiritual Parenting and Iron Sharpening.** Are you ready to help someone else in their faith journey?

- **Connect to Family.** As you meet with your group during Connect 40, we believe you will see how great the community you have experienced is. Pray about joining a Connect Group for the fall semester that starts in September.

## Scriptures

1 Peter 5:8

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Hebrews 10:24-25

*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Colossians 3:1-2

*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Hebrews 5:12-14

*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those*

*who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Mark 4:26-29

*And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. <sup>28</sup> For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."*

1 Corinthians 3:6-8

*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. <sup>7</sup> So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.*

*<sup>8</sup> Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

Acts 2:46-47

*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 5:42

*And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

**Acts 20:20**

*..how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house*

**Matthew 4:19**

*Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

**Talk About It**

- 1) How can forming close, supportive relationships within our church community help us grow spiritually? [Hint: Proverbs 27:17]
- 2) What practical ways can we encourage and guide others in their faith journey of following Jesus?
- 3) We often guide others to great restaurants, recommend good movies, or suggest fun activities. Sharing our experiences and insights helps others integrate smoothly into new environments, such as a job or neighborhood. In what ways can our “everyday discipleship,” like helping someone find their way in a new place, be a model for *spiritual* discipleship?

**Weekly Action**

Identify someone in your life who is new to the faith or seeking to grow spiritually. Commit to meeting with them regularly for mentorship, Bible study, or prayer. Share your experiences and encourage them in their journey to become a devoted follower of Christ.

**Pre-School / Elementary**

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**Pass it on.***Read John 8:12*

Evangelism isn't just for grownups—it is for kids too! Our big God wants to use everyone to show the bright light of Jesus. When we follow Him, we can understand the right way to go so we are never lost in the dark.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus' light is always stronger than any darkness.

**Weekly Virtue:** Shine bright and be kind to someone like Jesus.



THE PLUG

**Middle School / High School**

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A week before we started Connect 40 on July 21st, it was promotion Sunday. This is when the rising 6th graders graduated from Linked UP Kids and joined us in The PLUG. This is an excellent opportunity for older members of The PLUG to mentor and guide them!

Pray about how you can connect with one new student and be a good Christian role model. It could be one of the new 6th graders, a first-time visitor to The PLUG, or someone in your same grade. Look for them at church each week. By doing so, you can help them grow closer to God and grow yourself in the process.

## ***A Universal Gospel***

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit,"*

Matthew 28:19

**The Gospel is for *all nations*. Following Jesus' example, we should not get caught up in prejudices or old patterns of thinking. We should pray for and reach out to all people regardless of their backgrounds. This brings glory to God, which is the motive for our mission.**

### **A Universal Call**

Jesus did not die to save and unify one race, but to save all of humanity. This profound truth should inspire us to pray for and pursue the salvation of all individuals. By imposing limitations based on racial or ethnic differences, we diminish the glory of God. Christ's death and resurrection united us. We now have the commission to spread the Gospel to everyone.

Many of us have friends or loved ones who are not saved or who are not in fellowship with God. Don't write those individuals off or distance yourself—pray for them. We are ministers of reconciliation. God called us to see and acknowledge brokenness in the world and restore it by the power of the Spirit working through us. We should look at people the way God sees them, as beautiful people made in His image and having worth, dignity, and value. Think of what they could become as a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).



In a world filled with division and hatred, the grace of God prevails even more. Our mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is to live out and spread this grace, showing the world the transformative power of Jesus' love. It may take a supernatural experience for some people to give their lives to Christ, but never stop believing for their salvation. There is no favoritism nor partiality with God. Christ unified us all.

### **Unity in Christ**

Our society has reached alarming levels of moral decay. Yet, the scriptures declare, “where sin abounds, grace does much more abound” (Romans 5:20). This grace empowers each of us to fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples of all ethnic groups.

When the world sees us unified as one body of believers, living this new life in Christ and walking in love with one another, they will be drawn to know the God we serve. Jesus said, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). Our love for one another confirms we are Christ’s disciples and attracts the lost to us.

### **Mission Without Borders**

This commission to reach people of other ethnic groups was revealed just before Jesus was received into heaven. He gave specific instructions to His disciples before His departure, instructing them to tell people about Him in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Let us remember that Jesus' mission was for everyone to receive His message. As we go out on our

mission, let us not forget that racial, ethnic, or cultural barriers have no place in kingdom-minded disciples. Jesus wanted His message to reach the ends of the earth, which means the entire human race. Go forth, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and fulfill this great mission with love, unity, and unwavering dedication.

## Summary

Jesus' mission to reach all nations with the Gospel instructs believers to overcome prejudices and spread His love to everyone, regardless of race or background.

- **A Universal Call.** The Gospel is for all nations. We must follow Jesus' example by overcoming prejudices and reaching everyone.
- **Unity In Christ.** Unity and love among believers attract others to God.
- **Mission Without Borders.** The Holy Spirit empowers us to evangelize any and everyone.

## Scriptures

Psalms 22:27

*All the ends of the world  
Shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
And all the families of the nations  
Shall worship before You.*

Isaiah 56:7

*Even them I will bring to My holy mountain,  
And make them joyful in My house of prayer.  
Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
Will be accepted on My altar;  
For My house shall be called a house of prayer for  
all nations.*

Matthew 22:39

*“...Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Acts 1:8

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

1 John 4:19-21

*We love Him because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.*

Galatians 3:28

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Revelation 7:9

*After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.*

**Talk About It**

- 1) How can someone overcome prejudices and old patterns of thinking to better reach out to people from different races and cultures?
- 2) Why is it important to recognize that Jesus died to save the entire human race, and how should this truth influence our approach to evangelism and discipleship?
- 3) How can unity and love among believers help attract others to Christ, and what steps can we take to promote this unity within our church community?  
[Hint: John 13:35]

**Weekly Action**

Invite a person from a different culture to church. By doing so, you open yourself to new insights while accepting the diversity of God's creation. Developing connections with individuals from diverse backgrounds can enhance your understanding of the universal nature of the Gospel. Your act of outreach contributes to making the kingdom more hospitable and inclusive while embodying the unity and love that Jesus preached.

**Pre-School / Elementary****Different, but the same.***Read Galatians 3:28*

God is happy when we show kindness and care for others, no matter where they come from. Showing love to people from different cultures can be as simple as sharing a smile or learning about their favorite food or holiday.

**Basic Truth:** Learning about different people helps us understand and make friends with more people.

**Weekly Virtue:** Celebrate a friend's unique talent or interest. Maybe your friend is great at a sport, plays an instrument, or speaks another language. Take the time to learn about what makes them special.



THE PLUG

## **Middle School / High School**

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Think back to when you recently talked about your faith with someone new. This week, share your faith with someone from a different background. Ask them about their traditions, what holiday foods they enjoy, and the stories they have about their family. These talks help you learn more about their culture and demonstrate the inclusive love of Christ.

## ***Celebrating Faith***

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit,”*

Matthew 28:19

Baptism is part of Jesus's Great Commission. It is a profound public declaration of faith and obedience to Jesus Christ. Even Jesus was baptized and fully submerged (Matthew 3:13-17). Through the symbolic act of full immersion in water, believers identify with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, signifying their cleansing from sin and commitment to a new life.

Exploring the perspectives on baptism, its spiritual significance, and the imperative to lovingly obey Jesus' commission helps us gain a deeper understanding of why baptism is essential in the journey of evangelism and discipleship and the life of the church.

**Have you ever desired to show your love and commitment to Jesus? Baptism is a beautiful way to do just that. While baptism does not save us, it is something Jesus instructed us to do. When we are baptized, we show that we follow Jesus and promise to stick with Him. It is like saying, "Yes, I believe in Jesus, and I want everyone to know it!"**

**Have you been baptized?**

## The Believer's Baptism

At Linked UP North Church, we believe baptism is significant and important. A person should be spiritually mature enough to comprehend the concept of salvation before undergoing this sacred act.

Baptism serves as a public identification with Jesus and the community of believers. It is seen as a condition of discipleship and a sign of faith.



We baptize people in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **as well as** in the name of Jesus. Various interpretations of the Word exist among Christians, with some advocating baptism solely in the name of Jesus or only in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Despite these differences, Linked UP Church remains committed to fostering unity within the Body of Christ. As stated in 1 Corinthians 12:25-27, we reject legalistic divisions and strive for unity regarding baptism.

Ultimately, we strive to fulfill the Great Commission obediently, avoiding division and embracing the spirit of unity in all aspects of our faith journey, including baptism.

1 Corinthians 12:25-27 (NKJV)

that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice

### Not Salvation, but Obedience

The act of baptism is rich with spiritual significance. Going into the water represents the death of our old habits and sinful nature. Being "buried" under the water symbolizes cleansing ourselves.

Coming out of the water signifies rising from our old life, being cleansed, and coming into the newness of eternal life that believers receive through Jesus (Romans 6:4).

However, it's important to remember that salvation is based solely on faith in Jesus. Subsequently, baptism serves as a public declaration of our decision to surrender our lives from selfishness and rebellion to dependence on Jesus for forgiveness, mercy, guidance, and purpose. We cannot save ourselves—only God can save us. Baptism identifies us with Jesus and the community of believers, marking our commitment to discipleship and our faith in Him.

### **Immediate Response to Faith**

In Acts chapter 2, Peter delivers a powerful message to a crowd where many have received the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. He explains that what the people are witnessing is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel, indicating that Jesus has indeed been resurrected which occurred less than two months prior.

Deeply moved by Peter's message and the miraculous signs confirming the fulfillment of the prophecy, the people are overwhelmed with belief. In response, they ask Peter what they should do. He urges them to repent of their sins, turn from selfishness and rebellion, and embrace Jesus Christ for forgiveness, mercy, guidance, and purpose.

As a result of receiving salvation, the people responded immediately by being baptized. This pattern of immediate response is seen throughout the New Testament. When Paul and Silas shared the Gospel with



their jailer, and he received, he and his household were baptized without delay (Acts 16:33). Similarly, Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch right after he professed his faith (Acts 8:36-38).

These examples show that baptism is an immediate response to salvation, identifying us with Jesus and the community of believers. Baptism is not just an act of obedience but a joyful expression of gratitude for the love and grace Jesus showed us while we were still sinners.

### **Perfecting Your Faith Journey**

*Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.*

Hebrews 12:1-2

As you reflect on the significance of baptism, consider taking this step of obedience if you have been saved but have not yet been baptized. Baptism is a beautiful declaration of your faith and a way to publicly show your commitment to Jesus. It is not about earning salvation but responding to the grace you have already received.

If you have not been fully immersed or were saved some time ago, now is the perfect time to take this important step and get baptized. Pray and seek God's guidance, embrace the opportunity to follow Jesus' commission, and proclaim your faith through baptism. Remember, it is through His grace that we are saved, and it is our joy to follow Him in obedience, fulfilling His Great Commission to spread the Gospel, be baptized, and make disciples of all nations.

## Summary

After salvation, baptism is a profound way to show one's love and commitment to Jesus by publicly declaring, "Yes, I believe in Jesus, and I want everyone to know it!"

- **The Believer's Baptism.** It requires spiritual maturity to comprehend salvation.
- **Not Salvation, but Obedience.** Baptism comes only after receiving salvation. It symbolizes the death of old habits, cleansing from sin, and rising to a new life in Christ.
- **Immediate Response to Faith.** Baptism should be done soon after someone decides to follow Jesus, showing thanks for His love and grace.
- **Perfecting Your Faith Journey.** Baptism is an act of obedience to fulfilling His Great Commission to spread the Gospel and make disciples.

## Scriptures

Matthew 3:13-17

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"*

*<sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.*

*<sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit*

*of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.*

*<sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

### Romans 6:4-6

*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

### 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

*that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.*

### Hebrews 12:1-2

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,*

*and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

### **Talk About It**

- 1) What does baptism symbolize for a believer, and why is it important to publicly declare one's faith through this act?
- 2) Have you been baptized? Share your experience with the group.
- 3) Is someone in your group considering baptism? Discuss the decision with them.

### **Weekly Action**

Reflect on your own baptism and its significance in your faith journey. If you haven't been baptized, explore this step by reaching out to a church leader for more information at [info@linkedupnorth.com](mailto:info@linkedupnorth.com). If you already have been baptized, find someone who is considering baptism and support them through prayer, discussion, and encouragement as they take this step.

### **Pre-School / Elementary**

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#### **What is baptism?**

*Read Matthew 3:13-17*

Baptism is a celebration! When children of God join His family, they tell the world about that decision by getting baptized.

**Basic Truth:** Baptism is an important part of your relationship with God. It's not something we do because friends are doing it or because it looks fun.

**Weekly Virtue:** God wants more people in His family to tell the world they love Him by getting baptized. Ask your parents so you can learn more about baptism and why we get baptized.



THE PLUG

## **Middle School / High School**

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Learn about the significance of baptism and share your understanding with someone. If you haven't been baptized, consider taking this essential step in your faith journey. If you have, support and encourage someone who is considering baptism. It's pleasing to God when we grow in our faith and help others do the same!

## ***Disciples, Teach Disciples.***

“...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;”  
Matthew 28:20 NKJV

Disciples are made through the ministry of the Word entrusted to the church, including teaching, preaching, evangelism, and counseling. However, this is not a one-time teaching or Sunday sermon, but a continuous process that enables new believers in Christ to be equipped for their calling. This word teaching in the original Greek text means “to impart instruction, instill doctrine into one, to explain or expound a thing to teach one something.”

**We are to lead people to Christ and help them begin the process of discipleship by teaching them things like denial of self, wholehearted love for God, sacrificial love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, humility, servanthood, sexual purity, the work of the Holy Spirit, faith, grace, generosity, and obedience.**

These virtues are foundational truths that every disciple should learn about and begin to practice as early as possible in their Christian walk. Putting these truths into practice allows new and mature believers to build a solid spiritual foundation. Ultimately, the goal of discipleship is for us to become Christ-like. We must develop healthy relationships with new believers to effectively disciple them. Remember, “people don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

We should encourage them to do several things. First, find a life-giving church that teaches the Bible. Second, encourage them to read, study, and put the scriptures into practice in their lives. Third, encourage them to become a part of a connect group where they can form friendships and benefit from the insights of others. At Linked UP North, we believe Connect Groups are a great way to foster discipleship and spiritual growth. These groups provide a strong support system, accountability, and community.

### **Stay Connected with Community**

As we approach the end of our Connect 40 Campaign, this should not be the end of our journey in community. We encourage you to continue meeting with your group into the Fall Semester, and we will provide sermon devotionals for your group to discuss from week to week. Our Fall Semester for Connect Groups begins on September 1 and will be kicked off with a Connect Group Expo. One way to further your growth and development is to get involved in a group.

The Fall Connect Groups are listed within the church app.

### **God Wants You to Do Your Part**

With so many opportunities to get involved, the next thing to do is get started.

### **Scriptures**

1 Thessalonians 1:5

*For our Gospel came unto you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Ghost and in much assurance, as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.*

**John 8:31-32 NCV**

*So, Jesus said to the Jews who believed in him, “If you continue to obey my teaching, you are truly my followers. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT**

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

**Talk About It**

- 1) The Bible is our blueprint for Christian living. How does continuing to follow Christ's teachings help you become more Christ-like? What can you do to deepen your knowledge of the Word of God? [Hint: 2 Timothy 2:15]
- 2) God desires each one of us to experience life in community. How has being a part of this community group improved your relationship with God? With others? Share your story.
- 3) Making disciples is incredibly important to expanding God's kingdom. Who are you consistently sharing the Word of God with? How can you disciple people in your sphere of influence?

**Weekly Action**

Take action on your discipleship journey by maintaining a connection with the community you've developed or taking a class:



- Commit to continue meeting with your Community Group to study the weekly sermon discussion guide.
- Join a Connect Group like Authentic Manhood or Connect to Freedom, offering separate classes for men and women for the semester starting September 1.
- Continue studying the Sunday messages with your Community Group. Focus on evangelism by welcoming new members.
- Explore becoming a Linked UP member by taking Next Steps classes. Learn about our beliefs, your God design, and how you can get further involved with the ministry.
- Discover classes at Purpose Central, where you can earn your High School Diploma in a supportive environment or expand your business with entrepreneurial courses.

We believe in meaningful growth supported by depth, and we've made these opportunities available to you. Visit [linkedupnorth.com](http://linkedupnorth.com) to learn more or email [info@linkedupnorth.com](mailto:info@linkedupnorth.com) for assistance.

## **Pre-School / Elementary**

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### **Study God's Word.**

*Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

All Scripture is from God, and it is all perfect. However, God didn't personally write the Bible. Instead, He used certain men like Moses, Joshua, Isaiah, John, Paul and others throughout history to write down His Word so that we could read it today.

**Basic Truth:** The Bible is perfect and complete. It is what God wants all of us to know, trust, and obey.

**Weekly Virtue:** If you ever have questions about what God says about something, then read your Bible.

## ***He's Always with Us***

Congratulations on completing Connect 40! We pray you have received insightful knowledge and practical information to strengthen your evangelism and discipleship journey. As you studied the weekly messages and scriptures and engaged in group discussions, you were not just learning but also being equipped to carry out the Great Commission.

Remember the powerful promise Jesus made to His disciples: I am with you always, even to the end of age” (Matthew 28:20). This assurance is the foundation of our Christian journey. We are never alone in our efforts to spread the Gospel.

### **Keep Going!**

Throughout Connect 40, we believed that your interactions within your Community Groups—whether you were hosting a group or simply participating—inspired you to want to continue growing with a community of believers. So, while we aim to expand the kingdom by growing larger, we also want to ensure we grow in spiritual depth.

To stay on this path, everyone is invited to continue having these weekly discussions by attending Sunday services online or in-person and then utilizing the weekly discussion guides distributed to Community Groups. These



guides reinforce the sermons and provide an opportunity for deeper study and discussion with your Community Group, whether it's your family or others.

Discipleship is the goal, but it starts with evangelism. Continue to study and refine the salvation message you will share with an unbeliever until you can naturally share it as an attractive and compelling message of hope and love.

Maybe the people you sought to share God with did not receive or perhaps they did. Either way, be confident that as you continue to believe in their salvation and apply the Word of God that, "He will be with you."

### **Let Us Know!**

We would love to hear about your personal testimonies and how you witnessed God move in your lives during these 40 days. Share your stories by emailing [info@linkedupnorth.com](mailto:info@linkedupnorth.com). They will undoubtedly inspire and encourage others to continue in their evangelism and discipleship efforts!

### **Thank You**

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. We pray you have been transformed over the last 40 days and experience a future filled with opportunities to share the faith and disciple others. Until the end of age, we have the Holy Spirit as ***Our Helper***.

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## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# OUR MISSION: *The Great Commission*

Matthew 28: 16-20 NKJV

*Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.*

*<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

