



**Who we are:
gospeling, gathering, growing, going**
by Bernard Gabbott

Memory verse:

¹⁸ Then Jesus came near and said to them,
"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded
you.
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:18-20

I am not a fan of ‘business-speak’, vision or mission statements, nor do I particularly enjoy ‘vision-setting’. However, every now and again, it is worthwhile spending time thinking about who we are, as we gather and disperse as God’s people. As Narrabri Anglican Church, we looked at ‘church’ in 2021—but what does that look like as we are active in gathering and living in Narrabri? What are we on about as a community together (‘church’), and community dispersed (living as God’s people in town)?

In this series, we want to see how the ‘Great Commission’ drives our core values as we gather and live. And I hope that you’ll notice that we have added a ‘g’ to our logo!

Study 1: gospelling

¹⁶ The 11 disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20

Comprehend

1. Read the passage.
2. Where are we in Matthew's 'good news' biography of Jesus?
3. Who is meeting here? (vs.16-17)
4. What is Jesus' first statement? (vs.18)
What does this tell you about Jesus?
5. What is the ONE command of Jesus in verses 19-20?
How is this command to be carried out (there are three parts)?
6. What reassurance does Jesus finish with? (vs.20)

Consider

1. What is a disciple?
2. At the heart of becoming a disciple is 'the gospel'. What does 'gospel' mean?

Look at the following passages and try to outline the essence of the gospel...

Mark 1:1, 15

Matthew 4:17

Luke 4:18-19

John 1:12-13

Romans 1:16

1 Corinthians 15:1-7

3. How is the gospel communicated? (see Matt.4:23, 9:35)

How is the gospel accepted? (see Eph.2:1-10)

What does the gospel do?

Why is the gospel at the heart of becoming a disciple?

Contact

1. What is 'gospelling' (another word is 'evangelizing')?
2. What is the first step in 'gospelling'?
3. How is 'gospelling' critical for Jesus' final command to his close followers?
4. Who must we be 'gospelling'?

Study 2: gathering

¹⁶ The 11 disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20

Consider

1. Read the passage.
2. What is the ONE command Jesus gives his close followers? (vs.20)
3. Disciples receive two 'things' - what is the first? (vs.20)
4. What is baptism?

Who did it first in the Bible, and what is it connected to?
(see Matthew 3:1-6)

5. In Jesus' command, what does baptism display?

Who is this community with?

Comprehend

1. God's people are called into a community. What does that community do in Exodus 19:1-8, in Hebrews 12:18-24, and in Revelation 7:9-17?
2. The gathering of God's people has another name—what is it?

How is this community described in Ephesians 2:17-22 and John 15:1-7? Do such images work if they are not 'gathered'?

5. What is part of going, as we cross cultural boundaries?
(see Acts 16:1-5; 17:16-34)

Contact

1. What does going mean for us, today?
2. When we go, what do we take with us?
3. What do we have to navigate and negotiate, as we go?

What is non-negotiable? (see 1 Timothy 2:3-7)
4. Why don't you go?

Study 4: going

¹⁶ The 11 disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20

Consider

1. Read the passage.
2. What is the crucial first step for making disciples? (vs.19)
3. Over how much of the earth does Jesus have authority? (vs.18)

Can disciples go anywhere where Jesus is not? (vs.20)

4. God's commitment to the world is how big? (see Genesis 12:1-3; Revelation 7:9)
5. Where can disciples, and must, disciples come from?

Comprehend

1. Where must gospeling happen, and how?
2. Look at a passage like Romans 9:14-18... how does the gospel go out?
3. In Acts 1:1-8, what is Jesus' command?

How does God equip his followers for this task? (see Acts 2:1-13)
4. How do God (Gen.3:1ff) and Jesus (John 1:1-8; Phil.2:5-11) model this going?

3. As disciples' gather, what else does Jesus command? (vs.20)

What does this put at the heart of gathering?

Contact

1. Why is gathering so important? (see Hebrews 10:19-25; Eph.4:11-16)
2. Who is gathering for?

Is gathering optional for a disciple? Put another way, do you think you can be a disciple outside gathering with the community of God and his mob? Why/why not?

Study 3: growing

¹⁶ The 11 disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20

Consider

1. Read the passage.
2. What is the second 'thing' disciples receive? (vs.20)
3. What is being 'taught'?

Where does this teaching come from?

What must be done with this 'teaching'?

Why is this so important (see 1 John 2:3ff)

Comprehend

1. What is critically important to growing as a disciple of Jesus? (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 19; 119)
2. This is not just something that is individual—look at Ephesians 4:11-16, and see how this growing happens in community—what is critically important here?
3. Growing is not just learning—it is obedience, too. How are gathering and growing connected? (see Colossians 3:12-17)
4. What does God do in our growing? (see John 14:15-26; Phil.2:12-13; Col.3:9-10)

Contact

1. Why do we find growing so hard?
2. Why do we think we can grow as disciples, without gathering, and without God's word?
3. What must we do to grow? And through this, what can we know God will definitely do?