



Small Groups

Small Group Discussion Guide

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing Part 5 of 5 in the series: “Beyond the Tomb” Pastor Shawn Thornton

(Discussion Guide by Carolyn Taketa)

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Last week, I stepped into my office at Calvary for the first time since the stay-at-home restriction was put into place. When I left my office two months ago, I had no idea that I would not be returning for a long time. My office was frozen in time; my calendar was stuck in March, my coffee cup was stained, and my “To Do” notepad was open with an irrelevant list of tasks. Had I known I would be away, I would’ve cleaned up, organized my desk, shut off my keyboard, and planned for my absence. We do things differently when we know we are leaving for a long time. We say the most important things when we know we will not see someone again.

Similarly, Jesus knew His time on earth after the resurrection was limited. Just as He was throughout His ministry, Jesus was very intentional about who He saw, what He did and what He said. Knowing He would be ascending soon to the Father, Jesus gives the final instructions to the disciples, this rag tag group of 11 men, commissioned to carry out God’s mission.

This week, we examine Jesus’ final post-resurrection appearance and hear Jesus’ departing instructions. What does Jesus consider to be the “main thing?” We want to keep the main thing the main thing by sharing Jesus’ message, method, means, movement, and motivation.

Opening Question: When you go away for work or vacation, what are some things you do or somethings you say right before you leave?

Read Aloud Acts 1:1-11 and Matthew 28:16-20

I. The Message: Jesus

Acts 1:8b “You will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.”

Acts 4:12 “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

- 1. How can we be Jesus’ witnesses? What does that look or sound like?**
- 2. Share an example of when someone witnessed to you OR share an example of when you witnessed to someone else.**

II. The Method: Going, Baptizing, Teaching

Matthew 28:19-20a "Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."

3. Pastor Shawn noted that one of Satan's methods to derail Christians is to distract us. What are some distractions that we are tempted to engage in rather than the mission Christ gave us?
4. What is a command of Christ that has impacted you deeply? Have you had an opportunity to share that command with someone else?

III. The Means: The Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8a "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you."

1 Thessalonians 1:5 "Our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction."

5. Share a time when the Holy Spirit led you to speak or do something. How did you recognize the Spirit's leading in that moment?
6. Ask people to share the first name of someone they have been praying for to come to faith in Christ. Pray together asking the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in their lives and give you the opportunity to witness to them.

IV. The Movement: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Ends of the Earth

Acts 1:8c "You will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

7. What would be the geographical perimeters that is similar to Acts 1:8: where would Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and ends of the earth would be for us where we are located today?
8. How can we use our social media, which has no geographical boundaries, to share the gospel?

V. The Motivation: He is with us until we are with Him

Matthew 29:20b "Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go."

9. What is currently distracting you from making the main thing the main thing in your own life?
10. How can we, as a small group, keep the main thing the main thing?