

## Sermon Guide: Discipleship and Growth | Samuel Voo | Oct 01, 2023

In this sermon, Sam explores the concept of discipleship as the ultimate goal of the Christian life, concluding a three-part series where he has been discussing three of the most important lessons that inform his approach to ministry and life. He emphasizes the importance of discipleship to Jesus, arguing that without it, other aspects of Christian life lose their focus, foundation, and center.

Sam looked at Matthew 28:16-20 in the context of the whole gospel narrative of Matthew, highlighting the special emphasis on discipleship, teaching, and mission in Matthew's gospel. The clear command of Jesus to make disciples is sandwiched, on the one hand, between a confident statement of fact (that all authority has been given to Jesus) and a comforting promise (that he will be with his disciples always).

Sam encourages all of us, whether new believers or old, to continue striving forward in discipleship. One of the beautiful things about a multi-generational church like Granville Chapel, he asserts, is the great potential for opportunities of discipleship to occur between those in different stages of life and Christian maturity. As Granville continues forward in this new season, we encourage everyone to be involved at a variety of levels of involvement: from large gatherings of corporate worship, to smaller groups for fellowship and support, to individual relationships of discipling and being disciplined.

### Key Takeaways:

- Discipleship to Jesus is the ultimate goal of the Christian life. Without it, other aspects of Christian life lose their focus, foundation, and center ([06:41]).
- The act of discipleship is following our teacher and Lord Jesus and becoming more and more like him ([14:33]).
- The Gospel of Matthew places a special emphasis on discipleship, teaching, and mission ([16:40]).
- The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) is a command to make disciples, underpinned by Jesus' promise of his presence with us ([27:09]).
- Discipleship is not just for new believers but is a lifelong journey towards becoming more like Jesus ([28:34]).

### Bible Reading:

1. Matthew 28:16-20

### Observation Questions:

1. How does the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20 fit with the rest of the Gospel?
2. What are the special emphases in the Gospel of Matthew (in comparison with the other Gospels)?
3. What is the three-fold progression that is found in the Great Commission?
4. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus according to the speaker's definition?

### Going Deeper:

1. How does hearing the fact that *all* authority *everywhere* has been given to Jesus make you feel?
2. Can you identify someone in your life whom you can disciple or who can disciple you?
3. How can you carry the cross for someone with whom you're walking closely?
4. Which of these three aspects of Christian life, authenticity, community, and discipleship, speak to you most, and why?