



BANNOCKBURN

LIFEGROUP CURRICULUM

WEEK 1

Our Purpose

Our series begins by exploring two pivotal commands from Jesus, which beautifully illuminate the core priorities of the church. The first, known as “The Great Commandment,” was shared with his disciples before his crucifixion and offers a window into what God values most in our lives. The second, “The Great Commission,” was given after his resurrection gives us a clear direction and purpose for any church. Brought together, these two commands help us create a powerful and concise mission statement for all of God’s people.

THE SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 22:37-40

³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.¹”

MATTHEW 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

¹ **Law and the Prophets** – an idiomatic phrase to describe the entirety of the Old Testament. In English this kind of figure of speech is called a merism, wherein the whole is referred to by some of its parts (i.e. “From head to toe...”)

BANNOCKBURN CHURCH EXISTS TO GLORIFY GOD, FULFILLING HIS GREAT COMMISSION BY LIVING OUT HIS GREAT COMMANDMENT.

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 1

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. We often see mission statements from companies and organizations these days. Do a quick online search and share the mission statement of a company you like.
2. Why do you think these statements are so helpful?

DIVING DEEPER

3. While we'll examine each passage separately, use the chart below to observe the immediate context of both passages. What is the context for each command from Jesus, and to whom is he speaking?

Matthew 22:37-40

Matthew 28:18-20

What just happened?

To whom is Jesus speaking?

4. What single word best captures the command in Matthew 22? According to Jesus this command should be fulfilled in two specific areas of our lives. Jesus presents them in a specific order, but why does that order make sense?
5. Consider John 13:31-35. According to Jesus, what is one amazing result of our choosing to love one another?

6. How would you end this sentence: "Jesus proves to us that love is far more than just a feeling we hold by..."

7. Examine also John 15:13. According to Jesus what is the greatest act of love possible? Candidly then, what does Jesus prove to the whole world through his actions on the Cross (cf. Romans 5:8)?

8. Considering now Matthew 28:18-20, why do you think Jesus begins the Great Commission the way he does in verse 18? Why also do you think verse 20 ends the way it does?

9. How does Matthew 28:18-20 describe the process of "making disciples?" What do you think it means to "teach them to observe all that I have commanded?"

10. Does it make sense to you that one way we glorify God is by "making disciples"? Do you think it's possible to do this outside of the commands in Matthew 22?

11. What are some of the practical barriers you face when it comes to making disciples (for example: lack of knowledge of what that means, time constraints, etc)? What are some next steps you'd be interested in taking?