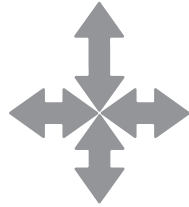




## GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of October 7th

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



**UP:** growing in relationship with God

**IN:** growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

**OUT:** growing in relationship with the world around us as we join God in God's mission

**The "out" section of this study guide asks you to view a video online. Make sure you have a way for your group to gather around a computer.**

**Plan to spend about 20 minutes watching the video and processing it together.**

### Get Started:

How do you choose whom to trust? What makes someone trustworthy?



**UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word**

Read aloud the passages for the week: Matthew 28:16–20. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. Verse 17: "When [the disciples] saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted." What do you think about this? Do you think they doubted it was Jesus, or that Jesus was worthy of worship? Why?\*
2. In verses 19–20 Jesus commissions His disciples saying, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." What are some of the most effective means of evangelism you have witnessed or experienced? What are some of the least effective?
3. "Proselytizing" is wildly unpopular and even offensive in our culture. There are rules against evangelism in many public spaces, and there have been instances where evangelism has been considered harassment in workplaces. Does the "Great Commission" still apply to us today? Why or why not? What role does Jesus's commission for His followers have in 21st century America?
4. We are reminded this week that Jesus is the Lord of all nations and that there is no culture who does not need Jesus. What is the responsibility of the church in America to the growing body of believers in other nations? What is our role in "making disciples of all nations?" How can we join with believers around the world to accomplish this?

\*NT Wright, Matthew for Everyone Part 2 Chapters 16–28 (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), 205-211.

5. The term "10/40 Window" was coined in 1990 to refer to nations 10–40 degrees north of the equator who were the least exposed to the Gospel. This includes nations like Afghanistan, China, Libya, South Korea, and Vietnam. Now, nearly 30 years later, many of these nations have experienced a growing Christian presence while the church in the United States has declined. How should we, the church in the USA, respond to this shifting reality? What can we learn from the first century church and churches in these "10/40" nations?



**Out: : Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)**

*Before watching the video as a group, please read this introduction:*

The video we are about to watch is based on InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's research on sharing the gospel in a postmodern/post-Christian world. Their findings were published in the book, *I Once Was Lost*, by Don Everts and Doug Schaupp. This video was produced by a church for use in their "new members" class. They call the class "starting point" and you'll hear it referenced a few times. As we watch, consider how you may have seen other people (or yourself) cross these thresholds in their journey to Christ.

Video Title: "Starting Point 5 Thresholds 1"

User: Tripp Crosby

Link: <https://vimeo.com/81124306>

Spend a few moments discussing these thresholds:

What is different about this from the way you typically think about evangelism?

How does this ring true for your experience? How have you seen this play out in your life?

Whom in your life can you identify as being at one of these thresholds? How can you support this person?



**IN: Connect with Each Other**

Split off into groups of 2 or 3 Share prayer requests in these smaller groups and close by praying for one another.