



WEEK 18

2ND SEMESTER · DISCIPLESHIP & SERVICE

Evangelism and Boldness

The Great Commission and courage to speak for Jesus

SPIRITUAL THEME

Evangelism – the Great Commission

PERSONAL THEME

Boldness – overcoming fear to speak

Leaders: David Kyakulaga · Bernd Broschek

Bwembe Jesus Follower Bible School

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Spiritual Theme: Evangelism – the Great Commission

Personal Theme: Boldness – overcoming fear to speak

Main Bible Passage: Matthew 28:16-20

Parallel Passages: Acts 1:8; Acts 4:29-31

Lesson Aim: Students understand that evangelism flows from the authority of the risen Jesus and is carried out with prayer, the Spirit, and courageous love.

1. Introduction: Evangelism Begins With The Risen Jesus

This lesson begins with the risen Jesus. Evangelism is not first a church program, a method, or a personality type. Evangelism begins with who Jesus is and what He has done. He died for our sins, He rose from the dead, and now He has all authority in heaven and on earth. Because He is alive, His people are sent into the world with good news.

Many believers feel afraid when they think about sharing the gospel. Some are afraid of rejection. Some feel they do not know enough. Some think evangelism is only for pastors, evangelists, or people with strong personalities. But Matthew 28 shows that the mission belongs to the whole church because the command comes from the risen Lord Himself.

Evangelism is not a human idea. It is obedience to the risen Christ who has all authority.

This gives great comfort. We do not go because we are strong. We go because Jesus reigns. We do not speak because every person will accept us. We speak because Christ is worthy, sinners need salvation, and Jesus promises His presence with His disciples until the end of the age.

2. Reading The Whole Passage Together: Matthew 28:16-20

"But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had sent them. When they saw him, they bowed down to him, but some doubted. Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 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 observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen." (Matthew 28:16-20)

3. The First Movement: Worship And Weakness Before Jesus

Matthew tells us that the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had sent them. This is already important. The disciples are not creating their own mission. They are

obeying the direction of Jesus. Mission begins with listening to Jesus and coming to the place where He calls us.

When they see Jesus, they bow down to Him. This shows worship. The risen Jesus is not treated as a dead teacher remembered with respect. He is worshiped as the living Lord. Yet Matthew also says that some doubted. This is very honest. The first witnesses were not presented as perfect heroes. They were real disciples, worshiping and still struggling.

Jesus sends worshipping disciples, not perfect disciples.

This is a strong encouragement for Bible students. A person may feel weakness and still obey Jesus. A person may have questions and still come to Jesus. A person may feel fear and still become a faithful witness. The answer is not to wait until we feel powerful. The answer is to come to the risen Christ, worship Him, listen to Him, and obey His Word.

Practical Application: Name Your Fear Before Jesus

Ask the students to name the fear that keeps them silent. It may be fear of being laughed at, fear of family pressure, fear of Muslims or traditional religious opposition, fear of older people, fear of not answering hard questions, or fear of losing respect. These fears should not be hidden. They should be brought to Jesus in prayer.

A practical classroom moment can help: let each student write one sentence: "Lord Jesus, I am afraid to speak because _____. Then let them pray, "But You are risen, You have authority, and I want to obey You." This turns fear into honest discipleship instead of hidden shame.

4. The Second Movement: All Authority Belongs To Jesus

Jesus says, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." This is the foundation of the Great Commission. Before Jesus commands His disciples to go, He tells them who He is. Mission rests on His authority, not on our confidence.

The word "all" is very important. Jesus does not have partial authority. He has all authority in heaven and on earth. No village, tribe, nation, family, school, marketplace, spirit power, political power, or religious opposition is outside His rule. The nations are not outside His authority. They are the field of His mission.

The courage of evangelism comes from the authority of Jesus, not from the strength of the messenger.

This does not mean evangelism will always be easy. Jesus Himself was rejected. The apostles were opposed. Many faithful witnesses suffer. But opposition does not cancel the authority of Jesus. It

simply shows that the mission is spiritual, serious, and costly.

Practical Application: Speak As A Servant Under Authority

Boldness must not become arrogance. We do not speak as people who are better than others. We speak as servants under the authority of Jesus. This means our tone matters. We should not insult people, mock other religions, or argue to win pridefully. We should speak truth clearly, but with humility and love.

For practical evangelism training, students should practice saying the gospel in a simple and respectful way: God is holy. We have sinned. Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again. He calls us to repent, believe, and follow Him. This is clear enough for a child, but deep enough for every person. The student should learn to speak this message without shouting, manipulation, or confusion.

5. The Third Movement: Make Disciples Of All Nations

The main command in Matthew 28 is "make disciples." Going, baptizing, and teaching all belong to this one mission. Jesus does not only command us to collect decisions. He commands us to make disciples. Evangelism is therefore more than a short conversation, although it often begins with one. The goal is people who repent, believe, are baptized, are taught, and learn to obey Jesus.

"All nations" means the mission is bigger than one people group. The gospel is not only for one tribe, one language, one class, one village, or one culture. Jesus is worthy of worship from every people. This is important in Uganda, where many tribes, languages, cultures, and religious backgrounds live near one another. The church must not become narrow where Jesus has made the mission wide.

The Great Commission is not only to make converts, but to make disciples who obey Jesus.

Baptism is also important in this passage. Jesus commands baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This shows that Christian discipleship is openly connected to the Triune God. Baptism is not a private secret only. It is a public sign of belonging to Christ and His people.

Teaching is also part of the mission. Jesus says we must teach them to observe all that He commanded. This means discipleship is not information only. We teach for obedience. A student has not finished teaching when people can repeat the lesson. Teaching is bearing fruit when people begin to obey Jesus in faith, repentance, love, holiness, and mission.

Practical Application: Evangelism Must Lead Toward Discipleship

Students should not think of evangelism as only "I told someone about Jesus; now I am finished." Sometimes that is all we can do, and we trust God with the seed. But when possible, we should help the person take the next step. That next step may be reading the Bible together, inviting

them to church, praying with them, explaining repentance and faith, or connecting them with a mature believer.

A very practical exercise is this: every student writes the name of one person they can pray for and one simple next step they can take. The step should be realistic: visit, call, invite, share testimony, read Mark 1 together, or ask, "Can I pray for you?" This makes the Great Commission concrete and personal.

Sketchnote: Evangelism And Boldness

6. The Promise: Jesus Is With Us Always

Jesus ends the passage with a promise: "Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." This promise is not decoration. It is the strength of the mission. Jesus does not only send His disciples away. He goes with them. His presence is the comfort, courage, and confidence of evangelism.

This is especially important when students feel alone. A young believer may be the only serious Christian in a family. A student may be afraid to speak in a village where people follow traditional practices. A church worker may feel weak when speaking to educated people. But Jesus says, "I am with you always." The mission is not carried by human loneliness. It is carried in the presence of Christ.

The command to go is held together with the promise: Jesus is with us.

Practical Application: Practice Presence Before Speaking

Before students share the gospel, teach them to pray simply: "Lord Jesus, You are with me. Help me speak truth with love." This short prayer can be used before visiting a neighbor, before a conversation after class, before preaching, or before sharing testimony with family. Boldness grows when the heart remembers the presence of Christ.

This also protects from pressure. We do not need to force results. Jesus is with us, and salvation belongs to God. Our responsibility is faithfulness: pray, speak clearly, love people, answer honestly, and continue walking with Christ.

7. Parallel Passage 1: Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Acts 1:8 shows that witness is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus does not ask His disciples to do His mission in their own strength. The Spirit gives power for witness. This power is not mainly for self-display. It is power to testify to Jesus.

The pattern is also helpful: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Witness begins near and moves outward. Students do not need to wait for a far country before obeying Jesus. They can begin with family, neighbors, classmates, market people, boda riders, children, youth, and church visitors. Then the same gospel moves outward as God opens doors.

The Holy Spirit gives power so that ordinary believers can become witnesses to Jesus.

Practical Application: Start Where God Has Placed You

Ask each student to identify their "Jerusalem." Who is near them right now? A brother, sister, parent, friend, roommate, workmate, or neighbor? Many believers dream about preaching far away but ignore the people God has placed next to them. Faithfulness often begins near.

A good weekly assignment is simple: pray daily for one person, look for one loving opportunity, and speak one clear sentence about Jesus when the door opens. This trains students to depend on the Spirit and to obey in ordinary life.

8. Parallel Passage 2: Acts 4:29-31

"Now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of your holy Servant Jesus. When they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were gathered together. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:29-31)

This passage is very practical for the personal theme of boldness. The believers were threatened, but they did not first pray for comfort or revenge. They prayed for boldness to speak the Word. This shows that biblical boldness is not natural loudness. It is spiritual courage given by God in answer to prayer.

Notice also that they call themselves servants. They do not pray, "Make us famous." They pray as servants who want to speak God's Word. True boldness is not pride. It is humble courage under God.

Biblical boldness is humble courage to speak God's Word even when fear is real.

Practical Application: Turn Fear Into Prayer

When a student feels afraid, the first response should not be silence. The first response should be prayer. A simple prayer from Acts 4 can be used: "Lord, look at this situation and give me boldness to speak Your Word." This prayer is short enough to remember and strong enough to shape the heart.

In class, let students practice in pairs. One student names a situation where speaking about Jesus is hard. The other student prays Acts 4:29 in simple words. Then they switch. This helps them learn that boldness is not pretending fear is absent. Boldness is bringing fear to God and obeying anyway.

9. Cultural Background And Application For Uganda

In many Ugandan contexts, people respect religion, prayer, church, and spiritual language. This can open doors for evangelism. But it can also create confusion, because not everyone who speaks about God understands the gospel of grace in Christ. Some may mix Christianity with traditional beliefs, fear of spirits, prosperity promises, moral effort, or family religion.

Therefore students must learn to speak the gospel clearly. The gospel is not merely "come to our church," "God will bless you," or "be a good person." The gospel is the good news that God saves sinners through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The response is repentance, faith, baptism, and a life of following Jesus.

Students should also learn cultural wisdom. Some conversations require patience. Elders should be addressed respectfully. Family pressure should be handled with prayer and humility. Muslims, Catholics, Pentecostals, traditional religious people, and nominal Christians may all need different starting points, but the center remains the same: Jesus Christ crucified and risen.

Clear evangelism joins truth and love: the message must be biblical, and the messenger must be humble.

10. Theological Summary

This lesson can be summarized in five truths. First, evangelism begins with the risen Jesus. Second, the mission rests on His total authority. Third, the command is to make disciples, not only to collect decisions. Fourth, the Holy Spirit gives power for witness. Fifth, boldness grows through prayer and obedience.

John Piper wrote, "Missions exists because worship does not." This short sentence helps us remember the purpose of mission. Evangelism is not about building our name. It is about the glory of God among people who do not yet worship Him through Jesus Christ.

The Great Commission is therefore both serious and joyful. It is serious because people are lost without Christ. It is joyful because Jesus is alive, His gospel saves, His Spirit empowers, and His presence goes with His people.

11. Main Application For The Students

The main application is this: every student should move from fear to faithful witness. This does not mean every student becomes a public preacher immediately. It means every student begins to take responsibility for the people God has placed near them.

Each student should be able to say the gospel simply, pray for boldness, share a short testimony, invite someone toward discipleship, and trust Jesus with the results. The aim is not pressure or performance. The aim is obedient love.

A faithful witness speaks about Jesus with truth, prayer, humility, courage, and love.

Practical Response Time

Give the students quiet time. Ask them to write three names: one person to pray for, one person to speak with, and one person who may need follow-up or discipleship. Then ask them to write one sentence of the gospel in their own simple English. If they cannot write it clearly, help them until they can.

End this time with prayer from Acts 4: "Lord, give your servants boldness to speak your word." Encourage students to take one step before the next class, not someday in the future.

12. Discussion Questions

1. Why does Jesus speak about His authority before He gives the command to make disciples?
2. What is the difference between making converts and making disciples?
3. What fears commonly stop believers from speaking about Jesus?
4. How does Acts 4 teach us to respond to fear and opposition?
5. Who is one person near you that God may be calling you to pray for and speak to?

13. Group Exercise

Divide the class into small groups. Give each group one setting: family, school, market, village, youth group, or local church outreach. Each group should prepare a simple evangelism plan for

that setting.

Each group should answer: What fears may come in this setting? How can we speak the gospel clearly? What would respectful boldness look like? What follow-up step could help someone become a disciple? After discussion, each group gives a short report.

14. Memory Statement

Because Jesus has all authority and is with us always, we can make disciples with prayer, the Spirit's power, and humble boldness.

15. Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You have all authority in heaven and on earth. Forgive us where fear has kept us silent. Fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us boldness to speak Your Word. Teach us to share the gospel clearly, humbly, and lovingly. Help us not only to make converts, but to make disciples who obey You. Give us love for the lost, courage in opposition, and faith in Your promise that You are with us always. Amen.

Source Note

Research and background were checked against Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:8, Acts 4:29-31, Greek/exegetical discussions of the main imperative "make disciples," and standard evangelical mission theology. Piper quote: John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad: "Missions exists because worship does not."