

Community Group Sermon Notes February 1, 2026

Family & Discipleship Pastor, Philip Griffin

Series: *Out of the Pew and Into the Purpose (Part 6 of 6)*

Sermon Title: How did a small group of disciples change the world? - *Matthew 28:16-20*

Big Idea: God still wants to change the world through us, one heart at a time.

Spring Term: Week 5 of 20



Ice breaker: Share about a time when you were asked to do something important *before* you felt ready.

- How did you feel going into it?
- What did you learn *through* doing it?

Read and reflect on Matthew 28:16-20: (Option: Invite two different people to read it aloud—once slowly, once normally.)

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Sermon and Scripture Application Discussion:

1. As you read Matthew 28:16–17, what stands out to you about the fact that *some worshiped and some doubted*?

- Why is it encouraging to know the disciples doubted and struggled, even after seeing the risen Jesus?
- How does this challenge the myth that spiritually mature people never struggle with doubt?
- Read and reflect on Matthew 14:28–31 (Peter on the water) and Matthew 11:2–6, 11 (John the Baptist's doubt).

2. The sermon distinguished between *wavering* doubt (*distazō*) and *settled unbelief* (*diakrinō*).

- What's the difference between honest questioning and hardened cynicism?
- How can fear, disappointment, or discouragement affect our faith?
- What helps you bring doubts *to* Jesus instead of letting them pull you away from Him?
- Read James 1:5–8 and Psalm 42:5 and reflect.

3. Sent Before They Were Ready. Matthew 28:18–19

- Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples *as they were*, instead of waiting until they had it all together?
- Where in your life might Jesus be saying "Go," even though you feel unprepared?
- On the job training (OJT) was an example that Pastor Philip gave when he worked construction in college. How have you seen growth happen more through obedience than information?
- Read John 15:10 and Luke 11:28 for further discussion.

4. A Clear and Simple Mission, Matthew 28:19–20. Jesus' mission focused on *making disciples*.

- What do you think it looks like to make disciples in everyday life (not just church programs)?
- Why is disciple-making something *every believer* is called to participate in?
- Which part of disciple-making do you feel most comfortable with: sharing faith, modeling obedience, or walking with someone long-term?

Community Group Sermon Notes February 1, 2026

Family & Discipleship Pastor, Philip Griffin

Series: *Out of the Pew and Into the Purpose (Part 6 of 6)*

Sermon Title: How did a small group of disciples change the world? - *Matthew 28:16-20*

Big Idea: God still wants to change the world through us, one heart at a time.

Spring Term: **Week 5 of 20**



5. Teaching Obedience Through Our Lives as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1. Pastor Philip emphasized that we teach mostly by example and he gave an example of the graduate student in Florida who observed Philip for two years and “reverse engineered” his faith.

- In what everyday situations do you think people “read” our faith most clearly?
- How does obedience flow out of love for Jesus rather than obligation?
- Who has most shaped your faith by the way they *lived*, not just what they said?

6. God’s Ways vs. the World’s Ways. The early disciples changed the world not by power or arguments, but by love.

- Where do you feel tempted to respond to the world the *world’s way*?
- What does “out-loving” instead of “out-arguing” look like in our current cultural moment?
- How does the Letter to Diognetus, AD 130, challenge or inspire you?
- How can you find ways to apply these scriptures: Matthew 5:44–45 and Romans 12:17–21?

7. Empowered by the Spirit for Impact: Matthew 28:20b; Acts 1:8.

- How have you experienced God working through you in ways beyond your own ability?
- Why is it essential that disciple-making flows from the Holy Spirit, not our own strength?
- Where do you most need the Spirit’s power right now—boldness, love, endurance, or faith?
- Read Zechariah 4:6 and Galatians 5:22–23 to support your thoughts.

8. Application (Choose One)

- Personal: Identify one relationship where God may be inviting you to live more intentionally as a disciple-maker.
- Group: Pray about one practical way your group can model Jesus’ love together this month.
- Practice: This week, ask God daily: *“Holy Spirit, fill my sails and guide my steps today.”*

Closing Prayer: We thank you Lord, that you use us, ordinary people, with real doubts, to accomplish Your extraordinary mission. We pray for fresh dependence on the Holy Spirit, courage to obey before feeling ready and love that reflects Jesus to the world.

Faith in Action:

- February 4, Divorce Care Launch, 7 PM, B206
- February 8, Discover COS, After Both Services, A120
- February 10, Adult Fellowship Luncheon, 12 PM, Gym (F100)
- February 15, Global Outreach Prayer, 12 PM, B216 Prayer Room
- Who do you know? Help us build the staff team God is calling, visit: coswayne.org/join-our-team