

New Believers Bible Study

14. **Sharing Your Faith** : Equipping new believers to share their faith with others and be a light in the world.

Sharing your faith is a fundamental aspect of the Christian walk, as believers are called to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and be a light in the world. Equipping new believers to share their faith is essential for the growth of the church and the advancement of the kingdom of God. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commissions his disciples to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey His commands. This includes sharing the message of salvation with others and helping them grow in their understanding of the Gospel. Additionally, in 1 Peter 3:15, believers are encouraged to always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope they have in Christ, doing so with gentleness and respect. This underscores the importance of being intentional and proactive in sharing one's faith with others. As new believers are equipped and empowered to share their faith, they become effective witnesses for Christ in their communities, shining the light of God's love and truth to those around them.

Matthew 28:19-20

"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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This passage, commonly known as the Great Commission, is Jesus' final instruction to his disciples before ascending to heaven. Here, Jesus commands his followers to go out into the world and make disciples of all nations. The word "disciple" implies more than just a convert; it refers to someone who is committed to learning from and following Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The disciples are instructed to baptize these new believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, symbolizing their entrance into the community of faith and their identification with the triune God.

New Believers Bible Study

Furthermore, Jesus emphasizes the importance of teaching these disciples to obey all that he has commanded. This involves not only sharing the Gospel message but also instructing new believers in the teachings and principles of Jesus Christ. The Christian journey is not just about believing in Jesus; it's about living in obedience to his teachings and embodying his love and compassion in our lives.

Lastly, Jesus assures his disciples of his continual presence with them as they carry out this mission. He promises to be with them always, even until the end of the age. This assurance of divine presence provides comfort and strength to believers as they engage in the task of making disciples and advancing the kingdom of God. Therefore, Matthew 28:19-20 serves as a foundational scripture for understanding the commission and responsibility of every Christian to participate in the process of making disciples and spreading the Gospel message to the ends of the earth.

Matthew Henry's commentary on Matthew 28:19-20 provides valuable insights into the significance of the Great Commission:

"Here is the carrying on of the divine plan for man's redemption. The Son of God came into the world to bring mankind back to God, and to make a way for the admission of the Gentiles into the church; now, that work being finished, He sends his disciples, as His Father had sent Him, John 20:21. He is the Father's representative, and acts by commission from Him, with the authority of an ambassador. Christ had sent His apostles on a limited commission (Matthew 10:5), but now they are sent out to the Gentile world at large. They are here authorized and commanded to convert and disciple all nations, Jews and Gentiles alike, according to the utmost extent of their commission. Baptizing them, not by an immediate application of water (Christ baptized not, John 4:2), but by a ministry of baptism, by a spiritual application of the seal of the covenant, the initiating of them into the church, and so into a personal covenant and communion with God. It is by baptism that they are admitted into the school and family of Christ, and registered among his disciples. Baptism is put first, because it is first in order; teaching them is added, for according to Christ's institution, they must be first baptized, and then taught, not only what the gospel teaches, but what Christ has commanded, all

New Believers Bible Study

that he has made known to be the will of God. Those that are brought into the church of Christ are added to it, not that they may be there idle, but that they may be there taught. They must be taught to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. The end of gospel teaching is to bring people to obedience."

Matthew Henry emphasizes the continuation of the divine plan of redemption through the Great Commission. He highlights the universal scope of this commission, encompassing all nations, and emphasizes the importance of both baptism and teaching in the discipleship process. Henry underscores the significance of obedience to Christ's commands and the role of the church in nurturing and instructing new believers in the faith. Overall, his commentary provides a comprehensive understanding of the Great Commission and its implications for the mission of the church.

1 Peter 3:15

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

This verse encourages believers to be ready to articulate and defend their faith when questioned by others. It begins by instructing believers to honor Christ as Lord in their hearts, acknowledging His sovereignty and supremacy in their lives. This internal reverence for Christ should be reflected in their outward conduct and interactions with others.

The verse then emphasizes the importance of being prepared to give a defense or explanation to anyone who asks about the hope that believers have in Christ. This implies a proactive approach to sharing one's faith and engaging in conversations about spiritual matters. Christians should be ready to provide a reasoned explanation for their beliefs, demonstrating the rationality and coherence of the Christian faith.

However, the verse also highlights the manner in which believers should engage in such conversations—with gentleness and respect. This emphasizes the importance of conducting oneself with humility and kindness, even in the midst of disagreement or opposition.

New Believers Bible Study

Christians are called to defend their faith with conviction, yet with a spirit of love and grace towards those who may not share their beliefs.

In summary, 1 Peter 3:15 underscores the importance of being prepared to share and defend one's faith, while also emphasizing the need to do so with humility, kindness, and respect towards others. It encourages believers to honor Christ in their hearts and to approach conversations about their faith with confidence and grace.

Matthew Henry's commentary on 1 Peter 3:15

Provides valuable insights into the significance of being prepared to defend one's faith:

"Christians should be always ready to give a reason of their hope, and of their readiness to make this confession, 1 Peter 3:15. We should be always ready to own our religion, to own our hope in Christ, and to give a reason of the hope that is in us. Our hearts should be full of this hope, and our tongues should be employed in talking of it. We should have a good hope through grace, and be able to give a reason of it. We must be ready to bear witness to the truth, to stand up in a time of trial, and to own Christ and the profession of the true religion in defiance of all opposition and all reproach. We should be always ready to make a defence of our religion and of our hope, as of a thing that will bear a defence, that is defensible in itself, and that will bear us out in defending it; and we must do it with meekness and fear, with a good conscience and a ready mind, without being ashamed of our hope, or afraid to own it. We must do it with meekness and fear, with a calm temper and a due respect to those to whom we speak, not giving them any just occasion to reproach us for our pride, passion, or peevishness, nor to say that we are rude, or haughty, or insolent; but in the meekness of wisdom, showing all meekness to all men, with the fear of God always before our eyes."

Henry emphasizes the importance of Christians being prepared to defend their faith and the hope they have in Christ. He underscores the necessity of having a deep conviction in one's beliefs and being willing to articulate and defend them when challenged. Additionally, Henry highlights the importance of doing so with meekness and fear, demonstrating humility, respect, and a readiness to engage in

New Believers Bible Study

dialogue without being contentious or abrasive. This approach not only honors God but also reflects the character of Christ in interactions with others. Overall, Henry's commentary underscores the responsibility of believers to defend their faith with conviction and humility, contributing to the spread of the Gospel and the glorification of God's name.

New Believers Bible Study

Quiz: (Fill in the blanks)

93. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commissions his disciples to make disciples of all _____, baptizing them and teaching them to obey His _____.

94. According to the passage, what does equipping new believers to share their faith contribute to?

95. In 1 Peter 3:15, believers are encouraged to always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks about the _____ they have in Christ.

96. How are believers instructed to share their faith in 1 Peter 3:15?

97. As new believers are equipped and empowered to share their faith, what do they become in their communities?

98. What is emphasized as important when sharing one's faith in the passage? _____.