

# MENTOR



# FOR LIFE

## PLATFORM

Miami Dolphins Quarterback, Tua Tagovailoa, was asked about his faith in response to a tough loss. Part of what he said was, *“The good Lord up above doesn’t care whether you win a game or lose a game... allowing me this platform is the best thing in the world to be able to profess my faith.”*

If God doesn’t care about the game, what does he care about? One thing we saw clearly last Week was that God sent his one and only Son to die on the cross for the sins of mankind (1 Peter 3:18). Whatever else God cares about, he loved you that much. Christ did everything necessary for us to have a relationship with God. All we need to do is receive that gift—by grace through a prayerful expression of faith evidencing a surrendered heart (Romans 10:9–10).

God not only cared for you, but he cares for the whole world (John 3:16). Today, we’re going to examine some of Jesus’ final words to his disciples—his Great Commission. Throughout our study, we’ve considered lessons for mentors and mentees. What we’ll see is that from a Christian perspective, what we’re really talking about is discipleship!

What I hope you take away from today and our study is the opportunity you have to join in the work God is doing in the world. You may not be the hot young quarterback throwing to one of the greatest receivers of all-time. However, that doesn’t mean you don’t have a platform from which to proclaim Christ and all that he’s done for you.

### MATTHEW 28:16–20

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Maybe you're on board with the idea of reaching your lost family and friends with the Gospel, but you just don't know where to start. Maybe you're afraid you won't know the answer to a hard question.

Sharing Christ with others is as simple as telling your own story of salvation. You don't have to have all the answers to every question. All you need is a way to organize your thoughts around a structure. If you'd like some help, scan the QR code for a simple, but effective, strategy.



## DISCUSSION

What has been your biggest takeaway from this study?

1. What was the disciple's response to Jesus on the mountain? (17)

2. What is Christ's one, primary command and how does he qualify it? (19-20a)

3. What two assurances does Christ give while disciples carry out the game plan? (18, 20b)

4. In what ways does success in the Great Commission depend on...  
-the disciples?

-Jesus Christ?

5. What practical steps are you taking or can you take to obediently fulfill the Great Commission in your world?

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

We're wrapping things up for this semester. You don't want to "leave anything on the field." If you have a question, concern, or anything else, talk to your Coach today!

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## STUDY NOTES PRIMETIME

The University of Colorado Buffaloes ended their '22 season with an unimpressive 1-11. UC Athletic Director, Rick George, hired “Coach Prime” as Head Coach for the '23 season, then introduced Sanders to the team saying, “You’re gonna learn that this guy is about integrity, character, faith, and leading men. That’s what he does.” However, that’s not *all* Deion does.

Sanders immediately fired nearly his entire coaching staff. When asked if his “scorched earth” policy was good for college football or for the kids, Sanders responded, “I think *truth* is good for the kids. We’re so busy lying, we don’t recognize the *truth* anymore. We want everybody to feel good. That’s not the way life is.” When first meeting the UC team, Sanders still needed to finish his season as Head Coach of Jackson State. However, Sanders assured his new team, “I’m coming” repeating the phrase well over a dozen times, adding, “I’m coming to restore, replace, and reenergize.”

Although positive, he warned, “I’m not gonna lie. Not everybody that has a seat right now is going to have a seat when we get back...Some of you gotta play beside a fool that don’t *want* it, don’t *deserve* it, that don’t even *love* it. I promise you, it’s my job to get rid of him.” He continued, “I’m coming. And when I get here, there’s gonna be change. So I want y’all to get ready.” Further, he welcomed every athlete who didn’t like it to put their names in the transfer portal.

Two things stand out from Coach Prime’s message. First, “truth is good.” Here’s the truth—all people are sinners destined for an eternity in Hell (Romans 3:23, 6:23). Jesus is the only hope for salvation (John 14:6, Acts 4:12). It’s a hard pill, but necessary medicine.

The second lesson from Coach Prime is the promise that he’s coming back—and judgment is coming with him. The same thing is true for Jesus. Jesus came first to conquer sin. He will return in power and glory as King and Judge. That means that, although you may have a relationship with Christ, there are people in the world around you who don’t—people you care about who are on a path destined for Hell.

## MENTEES MUST FIND THEIR HOPE IN CHRIST

After Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, he walked and taught for 40 days. At the end of that time, he gathered *the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them*. Notice the response they had to Jesus, *they saw him they worshiped him, but some*

*doubted*. I don’t know about you, but I find some comfort here. It’s OK to have doubt, it’s just not OK to live in doubt. As we trust in Christ to overcome our doubts, it’s amazing to see what God can do in and through us.

Jesus began his final words to the disciples saying, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...”** It’s with that authority that Christ reveals his marching orders for his followers in every generation to come. **“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.”** Jesus issued his command, “make disciples.”

He qualified this command in three ways—“go,” “baptize,” and “teach.” In other words: evangelize, enlist, and educate. We don’t have to go to the other side of the world to evangelize. Jesus’ use of the word “go” simply means “wherever you go, make disciples there.” Baptism identifies believers with Christ, proclaiming, “I’m on his team now!” Finally, the process of teaching is what we’ve discussed throughout our study—it’s the process of mentorship, or another word, discipleship. It’s coming alongside another person and helping them to follow Christ.

## CHRIST’S RULE BRINGS A GAME PLAN

Esther was a *nobody* whom God made a *somebody* to use for his purposes. It was Esther’s association with Xerxes, the king of all Persia, that created an opportunity for her and Mordecai to do something great.

Jesus ended the Great Commission saying, **“And behold [meaning, “pay special attention”], I am with you always, to the end of the age.”** Our participation in the God’s redemptive plan isn’t about our *power*, it’s about our *proximity*. We are a bunch of nobodies trying to tell anybody about somebody. It’s through a relationship with Christ that his power works in us and through us that echoes into eternity.

In our study, we’ve seen what God can do through humility and obedience. God can use you in ways you can’t even imagine. You can be a part of someone stepping from death to life on an eternal scale. You can make disciples!

Our prayer is that one day in eternity, you get to meet people who were the disciples of your disciples and who also discipled others. In simple obediences, a giant family tree of disciples can enjoy the Lord forever because you were faithful to Christ’s Commission here on Earth. We might say that Jesus came to “restore, replace, and reenergize,” and he wants to use you to be a part of the game plan.