

Small Group Study in the Book of Matthew
October 25, 2026

A suggested format for your group time

15 min – Fellowship

15 min – Prayer (using the four quadrants of the SG prayer sheet)

45 min – Study (see below)

Matthew 28:1-20

Passage Summary

Chapter 28: The Resurrection and the Great Commission

The story takes a dramatic turn as the women who come to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body discover it empty. An angel proclaims that Jesus has risen from the dead, defying death and fulfilling the prophecies of the Messiah. Jesus appears to his disciples, providing them with comfort and reassurance. Jesus issues the Great Commission, instructing them to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations," baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

<https://biblevise.com/matthew-chapter-summaries/>

Jump Start Questions

- What would be your response if someone told you a dead body came back to life at Hatcher and Saddler Funeral Home this week? What would be some possible response if that story circulated around Glasgow?
- Why do you think the resurrection of Jesus is a critical component of the gospel message? What do you think it would mean if Jesus did not actually rise from the dead?

Matthew 28:1-8

- According to Matthew, what events occurred that caused the stone to roll away from the tomb entrance? How did the soldiers respond to these events? How did the women respond? How do you think you would have responded?
- What three commands did the angel give to the women? (**do not be afraid, come and see, go and tell**). How do those commands apply to believers today?
- What two emotions did the women express as they hurried to Galilee? (**fear and joy**). Why do you think there was this mixture of emotions? (**Who would believe their story, especially from women whose testimony was not admissible in a court of law**). Why do you think the news of the rise Christ was given first to these women and not to the disciples?

Matthew 28:9-15

- How did the personal encounter of the women with Jesus strengthen their faith and solidify their testimonies? Why is a firsthand account more reliable than secondhand information? Why is it important that we personally meet the living Jesus?
- How did the chief priests respond to the news of an empty grave? How did they try to cover up the truth? Why were they not interested in the truth? Why were the soldiers complicit to the cover up?
- Why do people today refuse to believe that Jesus rose from the dead? What would be the implication for our lives if Jesus truly rose? (It would mean that He really is God, the Word is true, and we must acknowledge Him as Lord of our lives).

Matthew 28:16-20

- Why did some of the disciples still doubt what they were seeing with their own eyes? Why do we still have doubts from time to time? How should a believer deal with their doubts?
- What was the command Jesus gave to His disciples in this passage? Why has this been called the Great Commission? Where were they supposed to go? What were they supposed to do? How do you make a disciple?
- What gives us the courage and confidence to carry out this commission? (We have His authority and His presence). What happens when the church or the Christian loses their focus on the main mission? How can you tell when a church is not fulfilling the Great Commission?

Practical suggestions:

1. Please feel free to modify any question and include other text-based questions that you might find helpful for your group to help them think through the passage - specifically questions that lead participants to make comments *based on the text* (not just to give opinions).
2. Invite group members to make other observations they see in the passage. Have them to identify the specific verse where that observation is made.
3. Ask what application can be made out of these verses that will help a person to put into practice the truths in the passage?
4. Ask for volunteers to read the various sections. **Make sure you know the person you are asking to read is comfortable doing so. Please don't just assume and put someone on the spot.*
5. Be intentional about including everyone into the conversation. Asking an 'open' question directed to a specific person who remains fairly quiet is one simple way of inclusion (in other words, a question that may not have a specific right or wrong answer). An example of an 'open' question is: *What's your favorite part of this passage? Why?*
6. Remain sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and make both ministry and teaching a priority of your group time together.