

Worship Material
We can do this
Materials from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 4th June

Begin with an opening prayer

O God the Holy Trinity,
we worship you – even though sometimes we have doubts and fears.
You are the one we adore, without whom life has no purpose.
You, O Holy Trinity, meet us and greet us, support and uphold us,
provide for us and equip us, wherever we are on our journey in life.
We adventure with you, into the known and unknown,
but believing that you will always be with us, to the end of the age.
You are the one we adore.
Amen.

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Bible notes

The disciples have gathered at the mountain (v.16). Some are still trying to grasp what has happened – they ‘doubted’ (v.17) – but most respond in the only way they can: worship.

The command here is not ‘go’ but ‘make’. Going is inevitable; they cannot stay on the mountain. It is what they do that matters. And it implies that we who are disciples ourselves must do the same: disciples (v.16) make disciples (v.19). Simply put a disciple is a learner, someone who models themselves on their teacher. This is not just about knowing things but about our lifestyle, walking the way the master walks and doing what he does. This is a life-time’s journey.

Note the Trinitarian emphasis here – we are marking the start of a life with God, revealed in all his fullness as Father, Son and Holy Spirit – a God who redeems and empowers, who loves and invests in his people. Many of the people we meet as we go will be interested in all sorts of gods. One of our tasks as disciple-makers is to help them to bring the true God into focus. But, again, teaching is not just about information, knowing things. It’s also about experience – learning what God is like as we encounter him powerfully in worship, prayer, Bible study, crisis and elation. God’s voice calls us on to fresh and new experiences of his grace and love, day by day, as we walk with him. And this teaching mainly happens when we’re with others – though personal Bible reading and prayer is part of it. The life of discipleship is a life in community where we learn from each other.

All that Jesus says here is wrapped up in a huge claim that centres on four uses of the word ‘all’ in this passage: **All authority** (v.18) – people have already seen Jesus’ authority (7:28-29). But through his suffering and resurrection, God has given Jesus all authority in heaven as well as on earth. **All nations** (v.19) – everyone needs to hear his summons to discipleship; everyone needs

to hear the invitation to forgiveness and new life through Jesus. **All that I have commanded you** (v.20a; NRSV 'everything') – because he has all authority, we need to pay attention to all he has commanded us. Our way of life must be modelled on his, drawing inspiration and resources from his word. **All the days** (v.20b; NRSV 'always') – each and every day the risen, exalted, triumphant Jesus is with us. In our going out to make disciples, he is with us, taking our works and words and working in the hearts and lives of those who see and hear us. And in the struggles of life, each and every day – 'all the days' – he is with us, helping us to be the people he wants us to be.

Prayer

A prayer of thanksgiving

We journey with you, O God,
because you have proved yourself to us,
revealed yourself to us,
made yourself known to us.
You have drawn us to yourself.

Thanks be to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our journey with you is adventure,
It is yearning, striving and seeking,
It is letting go and picking up,
It is trusting and following,
It is being and doing.
And in all of this you are with us on the journey.

Thanks be to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You are balm to our fears,
the glue that holds us to yourself in our times of uncertainty.
You are the Father/parent who offers us sustenance.
You are the Son who lived and died and lives with us and among us.
You are the Holy Spirit who sets us on fire, who burns within us.

Thanks be to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

God of adventure,
thank you that no matter where the journey may take us,
you will always be by our side,
giving us renewed strength, vision and hope.

Amen.