

# The Road M.A.P. Discipleship Challenge

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## 1. Introduction:

As we journey through the Book of Matthew... it is helpful to have a road map. The road map helps ensure that we don't miss out on the intended purpose that God has for us and that we arrive precisely where we were supposed to arrive. Each week we will have a **NEW Road M.A.P. Challenge** that will give practical steps for that week. We will have a step that goes along with each message we preach as we go through the Book of Matthew.

The Gospel of Matthew – or, the “good news” reported by Matthew, takes us on the journey through the birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection of Jesus and ends with the call given to all who would become His followers – to GO and make disciples of the nations.

Using the Road M.A.P. is a helpful way for us to engage with the Good News and gives practical ways that we can begin engaging our lives in the Great Commission. Sharing this Good News with others is an important part of fulfilling our purpose here on Earth. We are part of the Body of Christ, and although, each of the members have different functions (Romans 12), and we have differing roles, there are some common purposes that we ALL share as believers. The Great Command – To love the Lord God with all of our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbors as ourself & The Great Commission – to Go and make disciples.

**The Great Commission** – *“Go therefore and make disciples of the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, forever to the end.”* – Jesus

## 2. The Road M.A.P. to Discipleship Challenge

**M – memorization:** Hiding God’s Word in our heart (Psalm 119) is a great way focus our thoughts, desires and minds towards Jesus. Throughout the M.A.P. challenge we will be memorizing from Matthew and by the time we are done, we will have memorized the B-attitudes (Mt 5:3-12) and the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20)

1. I would encourage meditating on and memorizing Matthew 5-7, 10, 13, 18-20, 24-25, 28:18-20. Those are six separate times where Jesus gave instructions to his disciples on how they were to live, their character and their mission. (of course there are many other great verse and passages to memorize!) Review your new verses each week, or you will forget them.
2. There are many different ways to memorize. You may already have a technique that works for you, if so – great! If not here are some suggestions:
  - a. <https://biblememory.com/> you can download the Bible memory app. This is a great way to get into the habit of meditating on the Word.
  - b. Read it, write it, say it, pray it. Repeat until memorized.

**A – application:** the application step is where we begin to disciple others. There are four main parts to fulfilling the GC with others.

### 1. Be a witness:

- a. **Good Works:** We are told to put our lights on display so others can see the Father in us (Matthew 5) We do this through the way we love others, acts of kindness, sharing encouraging words, being available for others, generosity, etc.
  - b. **Sharing our personal testimony:** another way we witness to others is by sharing our personal story. This could be anything from how we got saved by Jesus, to how he helped you through a difficult time, to what he is doing in your life right now. When we share our stories, we demonstrate who Jesus is to us. Our story is a powerful way to reach others.
2. **Evangelism:** sharing the good news with other. When we share the good news of Jesus with others, we are evangelizing them! exciting! The truth is, we should be sharing the Good News of Jesus with believers & unbelievers. Whether you are speaking to someone who has never heard of Jesus, or, someone who already believes, but is lost in addiction, or bondage, or depression. Sharing the Good News of Jesus with others, that he lived, died, rose again, forgives our sin, sent the Holy Spirit to empower us and that he is coming back again to gather all those who receive him as their Lord & Savior to spend an eternity with them! this is the GOOD NEWS.
- a. A great tool to help here is the Bridge. If you click on the link, you will find a helpful tool that will show you one way you can share the Gospel with others. The Church Renewal app <https://renewal.tools/#home>
3. **Teach them to obey all Jesus’ commands:**
- a. **Baptism in Jesus** - for the forgiveness of sins. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** – to empower ministry and sanctification (transformation, becoming holy, becoming like Christ)
  - b. **The marks of a true disciple:** In Matthew 5-7, 10, 13, 18-20, 24-25 & 28:18-20 Jesus defines what a disciple of his looks like. He sets a high standard but offers the Holy Spirit to enable us to obey his commands & forgiveness when we sin. Growth happens one

step at a time coupled with prayer, hard work and most importantly, the inward working of the Holy Spirit.

- c. **Repentance & emotional healing:** Jesus' death & resurrection broke the power of sin in our lives. We have been given tools, or, weapons, that have divine power to demolish strongholds (2 Cor 10).
  - i. The Church Renewal app <https://renewal.tools/#home> you will find simple steps to use power tools such as confession, forgiveness, breaking generational bondages, receiving inner healing, etc. within the app, you can familiarize yourself with the tools and then begin using them with others.
  - ii. If you need guidance working through an issue or get stuck with someone else. Please contact us the church and we will help!
- d. **Summary: Love God, Love people.** (We do this by following ALL of Jesus' commands John 14:21, 1 John 5:3)

**P – Prayer:** as P. Ray has often said, "Prayer isn't everything, but everything should come out of prayer." Prayer is a big part of a believers life and is the necessary 'life blood' behind every step we take.

1. **Prayer for ourselves.** We need to be praying regularly for the Spirits empowerment, direction and favor as we step out in faith.
2. **Prayer for the person we wish to disciple.** We need to be praying regularly for the person we are reaching out to. Before, sometimes during, and after we have reached out to them.
  - a. **Sample Prayer for ourselves and person we want to disciple:** "Heavenly Father, I ask that you would fill me with your Holy Spirit, that you would give me favor with \_\_\_\_\_ (*name of the person you are reaching out to*), that you would give me opportunities to share the Good News with him/her and that you would show me a practical step I can take to reach \_\_\_\_\_ (*name of person you are reaching out to*) and show him/her who you are and what you are like. In Jesus' Name, Amen"
3. **Prayer for the Church to grow in the Great Commission.** We need to pray for Renewal in the Church. That's God's people would turn to him, rely on his Spirit and that we would become passionate to fulfill the Great Commission.
  - a. **Sample Prayer for the Church:** "Heavenly Father, I ask that you would raise up a generation of believers in your church that would turn from sin, lay down their personal desires, and would take up the charge to fulfill the Great Commission. I ask that you would renew us, your Bride, and that you would pour out your Spirit on us – giving us the desire and ability to do your will. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

### **3. Road M.A.P. Weekly Challenges: NEW CHALLENGE UPDATED EACH WEEK.**

#### **Week 1: Passage of the Week: Matthew 1:1-17**

M – memorize Matthew 5:3. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

A – Just as Jesus called the GOOD out of Matthew. Pick someone that you can text, email, or call and give them an encouraging word. (DO IT NOW)

P – pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you as you step out in faith, pray for the person you just encouraged. Pray for our church to grow in the Great Commission.

#### **Week 2: Passage of the Week: Matthew 1:18 – 2**

M – memorize Matthew 5:4. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

A – Jesus encourages us by promising to be with us always. Who is someone in your circle that you know is lonely, struggling, or hurting right now? Show them what Jesus is like by being there for them. Either ZOOM, in person, or a phone call. Have a friendly conversation about whatever is on their heart.

P – pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you as you step out in faith, pray for the person you reached out to feel connected to you. Pray for our church to grow in the Great Commission.

#### **Week 3: Passage of the Week: Matthew 3 – 4:11**

M – memorize Matthew 5:5. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

A – John the Baptist encourages us to be helpers for the Groom (Jesus) preparing the bride (us – His church) for when He will return in all His Glory to claim her. Each of us is called - we have a responsibility as ‘Shospen’ to be serving our Lord doing all the we can to build and protect His Church. Are you ready to become less so that He can become more? Think of someone you can practically serve by encouraging them in their walk with the Lord. Connect with them this week, share your experience with temptation and faith, disciple them like no one else can!

P – pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you as you step out in faith, pray for the person you are reaching out to that they would keep turning to our Saviour. Pray for our church to grow in the Great Commission.

#### **Week 4: Passage of the Week: Matthew 5**

M – memorize Matthew 5:6. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

A – At the outset of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus zeroes in on the principles, the attitudes and the practices that we should follow if we want to experience life on this earth and life in heaven in all its

fullness as we were meant to do. I've always thought of "The Beatitudes" as Be – attitudes, attitudes we're supposed to BE. The first four focus on our relationship with God. So how's yours? Use these four (which you've now memorized!) to give yourself an end of the school year report card.

P – pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you to live out in practice these principles that Jesus gives us. Pray for comfort and wisdom from God; humility and meekness before God; and a hunger and thirst for God and that these attitudes would be contagious to those around us. Pray for our church to grow in the Great Commission.

### **Week 5: Passage of the Week: Matthew 5-7**

M – Memorize Matthew 5:7. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

A – Application The first four beatitudes deal with our relationship to God but now a transition takes place and the next four deal with our relationship to each other. Have you experienced the mercy of God? Not only is it the greatest thing you can ever experience - the mercy and love of God - but it's a prerequisite to being merciful yourself. What fills your heart today? What reigns there? Is it purity? Is it peace? Who reigns there? The answer to that question will determine how you are able to stand in the face of persecution for being like Jesus. With Jesus, you will see the source for what it is, refuse to retaliate in kind and respond positively when trials come. The Sermon on the Mount like all Scripture points us to the Lord Jesus Christ. The preacher of the Sermon on the Mount IS the Sermon on the Mount. His very words are meant to draw us into intimate contact with Him and then to send us out to do what He's called each of us to do.

P – Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you to live out in practice these principles that Jesus gives us. Pray that the mercy you have received is freely given away as well; that your heart may remain pure; that the peace of God in you allows you to be a peacemaker in your world and that you continue to grow in faith so as to withstand the fiery darts of persecution that come your way. Pray that these attitudes would be contagious to those around us and as a result that we – the church would fulfill our part in the Great Commission.

### **Week 6: Passage of the Week: Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 10:17-31, Acts 2:36-41**

M – memorize Matthew 5:8. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

A – application – 1) do you feel you are living out your commitment to Christ currently? Why or why not? REMEMBER you are saved by GRACE through FAITH. NO one reaches perfection, but we need to be headed in the correct direction. 2) who is someone that needs encouragement in your life? Pray and ask God for a word of encouragement and then share it with the person.

P – pray for yourself to have a rekindled love for Jesus and for the Spirit's power to enable you to live for him whole heartily. Then pray for the person you are going to encourage this week. Pray that they would experience the unmerited grace and love of God. Pray also for our church to grow in love for Jesus and discipling others.

## Week 7: Passage of the Week: Matthew 8

**M** – memorize Matthew 5:9. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

**A** – application 1) In your quiet time with the Lord, choose a passage (*perhaps from the Sermon on The Mount*) and do the following: **ASK** Jesus how you can obey that passage that day, **LISTEN** for what he wants to say to you and write it down, and **OBEY** Jesus in simple faith! 2) who is someone that needs encouragement in your life? Pray and ask God for a word of encouragement and then share it with the person.

**P** – pray for yourself to have a rekindled love for Jesus and for the Spirit's power to enable you to live for him wholeheartedly. Then pray for the person you are going to encourage this week. Pray that they would experience the unmerited grace and love of God. Pray also for our church to grow in love for Jesus and discipling others.

## Week 8: Passage of the Week: Matthew 9-11

**MAP Challenge Jesus' call to those who follow him:**

**M** - memorize – Matthew 5:10. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

**A** – application – application & prayer step below

**P** – pray – prayer & application step below

1. Pray – pray for the desire to give him everything. Pray for him to raise up laborers for the harvest. Pray for our church to be passionate for the Great Commission and for reaching the lost.
2. GO – are you willing? If so, prayerfully commit yourself to him. This week: commit to praying the lost and those struggling within your sphere. Ask: for opportunities and then look for ways to be a blessing to them. “give a cup of cold water.”
  - a. If the opportunity presents itself: seek to pray for them, listen to their story, and share your Jesus story with them (if they want to hear it).
3. REST – do you feel rest in your relationship with Jesus? If so, great! Keep going to him! If not, ask him what is blocking you from experiencing his rest and peace. Commit: share this with a friend or mentor, who will pray for and with you.