

SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – June 9th, 2025

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

Read this Overview Aloud Together

This section contains a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon.

This week we looked at the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20 and learned more about the Alliance's vision and strategy for global missions. Our founder, A.B. Simpson had two large passions which shaped our denomination. The first was that He had a desire for himself and others to experience the "deeper life" of Christ which has to be sold out for Jesus completely. Secondly, from the deeper life of Christ, Simpson had a passion to take the Gospel to the millions of people who hadn't yet heard of Him. These passages were shaped by the Great Commission.

Jesus begins by teaching that He is sending His disciples out because He has been given all the authority to do so. In our Western culture, global mission can be viewed with a level of shame because it has often been associated with colonial endeavours. While there has certainly been harm done through the poor missional engagement, it means that we as disciples of Jesus need to make healthy corrections to further our mission.

There are four main verbs in the passage that describe Jesus' commission: go, make, baptizing, and teaching. These shape our understand of what exactly Jesus is calling us to do which is intentional, hard work of getting to know other people. The word nations in the passage does not refer to political nations but rather ethnicities or cultures of groups of which there are multiple thousands of on Earth. Jesus desires every nation to be represented in the Kingdom of God.

In the Alliance, we have three main strategies for global missions: church development, relief and development, and the marketplace. In church development, this is the heart for planting new churches in various regions across the world. In relief work, these situations are where disaster strikes and the Alliance can provide immediate needs to people in distress. Finally, in the marketplace we recognize that entry into a country is easier and simpler through the workplace and the focus is on making that the centre of missions work.

Discussion Questions

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

- Do you have any questions or thoughts about the passage or sermon from this week?
- Have you ever been on a mission's trip (short or long term)? Share your experience with others.
- How does Jesus' authority impact our understanding of missions and evangelism? What are some challenges that you have with those areas?
- How does the story of Pilgrim and Mac inspire or challenge you?

Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice: Take time this week to explore global missions and how you might be able to partner with them.

- At SAC, we support Marc and Lisa Honorat who founded Haiti Arise ministries which is a mission's organization invested in the long-term physical & spiritual development of Haiti. You can find more information of their website: haitiarise.org
- Another option would be to go to the National Denomination website (thealliancecanada.ca) and under the ministries tab, view the global missions page. In that page, you can find out more information on what the Alliance is doing worldwide.

Prayer: O God, with all our hearts, we long for You. Come, transform us to be Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused people, multiplying disciples everywhere. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

End in Prayer

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.