

TALK IT OVER

CROSS TO CROWN

PART 5 | 27 APRIL 2025

NOTES TO LEADERS

- Prayer Meeting 6th May: 7pm followed by Leaders meeting at 7:45pm
- Looking In Time 11th May: 8am, 9:30am & 6pm - If someone is not a member of CityHill and would like to be - please encourage them to attend Looking In Time

SCRIPTURES

MATTHEW 28:16-20 (NIV)

16Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

START TALKING

- What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
- What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING

1. What does the phrase "The Great Commission" mean to you personally?
2. Why do you think only 2% of Christians are actively on mission?
3. When was the last time you shared your faith—or why haven't you?

START SHARING

1. How have you seen fear of rejection or feelings of inadequacy keep you from obeying the Great Commission?
2. Which of the three inconvenient truths (eternal separation, God working through us, our guilt) hits home most for you right now?
3. Jesus says "All authority has been given to me. Therefore go..." How does His authority change your confidence?
4. Which practical way of co-labouring with Jesus that Steph spoke about stands out most to you and why?

START PRAYING

Encourage the group to pray for:

- For courage to step out.
- For the names of people God is putting on your heart.
- For divine appointments and open conversations this week.

START DOING

- Read Isaiah 6:8 this week. Think about adding, "Lord, send me" to your prayers.
- Start praying for God to put 1 or 2 people on your heart to invite to our next Alpha.

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SUMMARY OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

Steph opened his message with a story about Nabil Qureshi, a Muslim who found Christ through a Christian friend's courage to share about his faith. Nabil eventually became a Christian Apologist - someone that is able to defend, discuss, debate, and show evidence for their faith - and ended up being a big bridge between the Muslim faith, and the Christian faith for many people from the Muslim background.

Steph then told a personal story about rescuing a drowning woman, and it serves as a metaphor: it's often easier to jump in and save someone physically than to risk relational discomfort to speak about eternity. Yet the stakes of silence are higher.

This week we read from Matthew 28:16–20 – The Great Commission

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There are three Inconvenient Truths of the Great Commission:

1. **Eternal separation from God is real.**
2. **Hell is not a metaphor;** Jesus spoke about it more than anyone else. We may struggle with this truth, but we are called to trust God's justice and mercy, even when we don't fully understand.
3. **God chooses to work through us.** Though unworthy and weak, we are God's plan for spreading the gospel. The Great Commission begins not with outward action, but inward conviction: the understanding that we are all guilty and saved only by Christ's blood.
4. **We all fall short.** Steph shared candidly about his own guilt—lying, stealing, misusing God's name—and pointed out that everyone is guilty. But some are covered by Jesus' blood, and others are not. That difference is eternal.

What are the barriers to obedience in the Great Commission?

- **We think it's someone else's responsibility.** Yet every believer is called to respond, like Isaiah: "Here I am, Lord. Send me."
- **Fear of rejection or judgment.** The antidote? Growing intimacy with Jesus.
- **Feeling unequipped.** But Jesus gave us His authority, the Holy Spirit empowers us, and we grow by doing—even awkwardly at first.

Practical Ways to Co-Labor with Jesus

1. **Change your prayer life.** Shift from self-focused prayers to mission-focused prayers. Ask God for opportunities and courage.
2. **Pray with unbelievers.** Look for moments of pain or need—people are more open than we assume.
3. **Invite people to Alpha.** Whether hosting or simply inviting, Alpha is a welcoming, effective way to introduce others to the gospel.
4. **Share Sunday messages.** Leverage YouTube and WhatsApp—even if autocorrect calls it a "demon" instead of a "sermon"!
5. **Be radically generous.** Shock people with kindness. It opens hearts and conversations.
6. **Consider a mission trip.** While not all are called overseas, many are deeply impacted when they go.

We have included a link to a YouTube testimony of a young lady who gave her life to God after speaking with a pastor. Feel free to watch it in your groups!

[God Transforms Her Life Years After Our First Encounter!](#)