

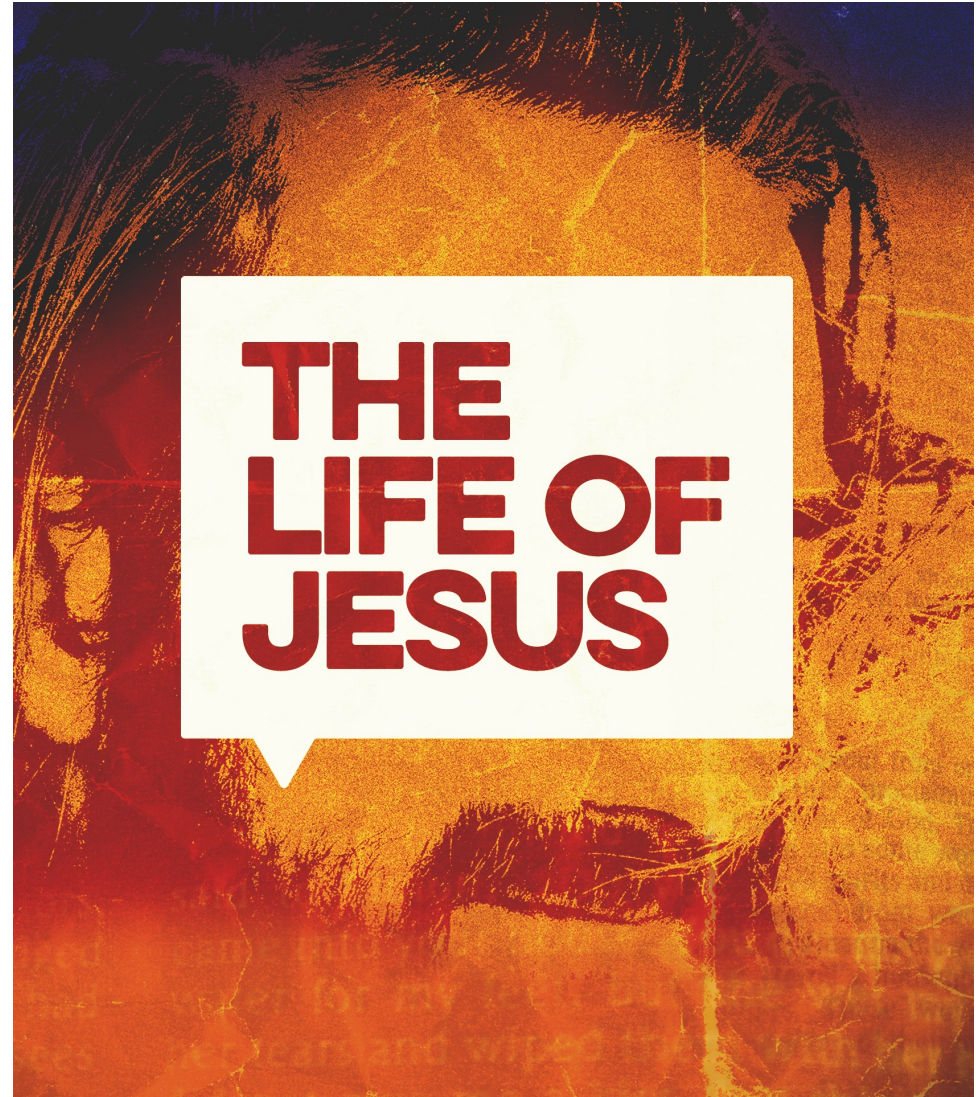
PRAYER

O God our Creator, we pray for your Church, and specifically for this church: may we as the Body of Christ at Hope Lutheran be free, courageous and compassionate to reach out to all who are still waiting to know the love and mercy of Christ our Savior. O Jesus Christ, bleeding and broken and bowed, yet still unconquered, you who reign from the Cross, pour out your Spirit on all your Churches. Revive your mission. Raise up laborers, O Lord, that men and women may be ready to tell of your justice, peace, amazing grace and of your salvation until the ends of the earth. In Jesus' name. Amen. (Prayer by Wm. Sloane Coffin, Jr.)

NOTES >>

SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

NORTH: April 25/29 | **SOUTH:** May 2/6 | **CHAPEL:** May 13



THE GREAT COMMISSION

Pastor Paul Nynas



This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://fargoHope.org/resources)

THE GREAT COMMISSION

READ: Matthew 28:16-20

One of the most famous management consultants from the 20th century was Peter Drucker. When he was retained to help a business like Ford or GE improve their future, he would ask three questions: 1. What is our business? 2. How is our business? 3. What will we do to improve business? Peter Drucker always said that human tendency is to start with a clear vision and then to get it all muddled up along the way. Many businesses experience this tendency!

In our text, Jesus wanted to make sure that his followers would never lose sight of their purpose. He talked about it very clearly in our lesson and it is recorded in a couple of other places in the Gospels. Pastor Bill Hybels summarizes it this way: “Here’s what I’m going to give you. It’s called the Great Commission. I don’t ever want my followers to fuzzy up what I want them to do in the world.” Here’s another way of saying it: “I want you to tell everyone you meet about me! I want you to help others become my followers and fellow believers. I want you to grow them up in the faith.”

Jesus shares his plan and unveils the structure through which this Great Commission is going to become real and concrete. He simply announces he is going to create the church. The church will become the community of the faithful, through which the world will be encouraged to know the love of Christ and then be taught how to live out that new faith.

It’s not solo Christians running around trying to fulfill the Great Commission on their own, but the church becomes God’s “body building program” for the Kingdom. Jesus wants heaven to be crowded. The church can never allow itself to lose sight of its purpose or for its purpose to become muddled. We are never to lose sight of this truth: there is no greater gift you can give to someone than an introduction to the God who loves them. Johnny Cash said, “Pay close attention, there’s somebody you ought to know – Jesus Christ my Lord.”

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. When did you first learn about Jesus Christ? How did you learn about him? Who told you?
2. What do you think when evangelism is mentioned? Do you have a positive or negative reaction?
3. Describe what the church means to you? Is the church really necessary?
4. How would you describe a healthy church? What qualities would you use to describe this church?
5. One church leader said, “The Church exists by mission, as fire exists by burning.” What do you understand this statement to mean?
6. What are the most common excuses people giving for not joining a church, and how would you answer them?
7. Someone once remarked: “It is often said that the Church is a crutch. Of course, it’s a crutch. What makes you think you don’t limp?” Respond and reflect.