

The World is Waiting

Mark 16:15

August 17, 2025

BIG IDEA

The mission of proclaiming the gospel is not just for a select few—it's the calling of every follower of Jesus. The world is waiting to hear the hope of Christ, and God has uniquely positioned each of us to share that good news. Whether across the globe or across the street, we are all called to live on mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness, proclaim, and disciple.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Mark 16:15:

"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

MAIN THEME

Jesus' command to proclaim the gospel is active and urgent. From his last words on earth to his promises about the future, Scripture emphasizes the global and local mandate to make disciples. We are not just observers of this mission—we are participants. Every believer is both sent and empowered to witness, supported by the Spirit, until every nation hears. At Ridgewood Church, this mission is visible in our partnerships in Togo, and in the lives of missionaries we support both globally and locally. But the mission isn't just abroad—it starts with each of us, right where we are.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Understanding the Mission

- Read Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:19-20. What stands out about Jesus' commissioning of his followers?
- Why is the Great Commission often overlooked or ignored by Christians today?
- How does Ridgewood Church's investment in global missions reflect obedience to Jesus' command?



2. Empowered by the Holy Spirit

- In Acts 1:8, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit's power for witnessing. How have you experienced the Spirit's help in sharing your faith?
- What prevents us from living boldly as witnesses today? How can we pray for fresh empowerment?

3. The Urgency of the Gospel

- Matthew 24:14 declares that the gospel will be preached to all nations before the end comes. How does this influence your view of missions and evangelism?
- Discuss the connection between global evangelism and the return of Christ. Does this motivate you to engage more intentionally?

4. Local and Global Calling

- Romans 10:14 asks how people can believe if they've never heard. Who in your life might never hear the gospel unless you speak?
- How can you practically engage with Ridgewood Church's local mission partners (e.g., Family Friends, Connected Families, Reach and Restore)?
- What might "beautiful feet" (Romans 10:15) look like in your own context?

5. Living as Disciple-Makers

- Reflect on Matthew 28:19-20. What does it mean to make disciples, not just converts?
- How are you actively discipling others in your home, church, or workplace?
- What steps can you take this week to live as a disciple who makes disciples?

PRAY

Jesus, the world is waiting to hear about your saving work on the cross. We pray that you would empower us to get busy and do our part. Give us a heart that beats for the nations. 3.8 Billion people have never heard your name. Stir us to change that. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- **Psalm 96:3** — "Declare his glory among the nations."



- **2 Timothy 4:2** — “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season.”
- **1 Peter 3:15** — “Always be prepared to make a defense... for the hope that is in you.”
- **Revelation 7:9** — A vision of every nation, tribe, and people worshiping before the throne.

NEXT WEEK:

We Begin an Exciting New Series in the Book of Colossians!

