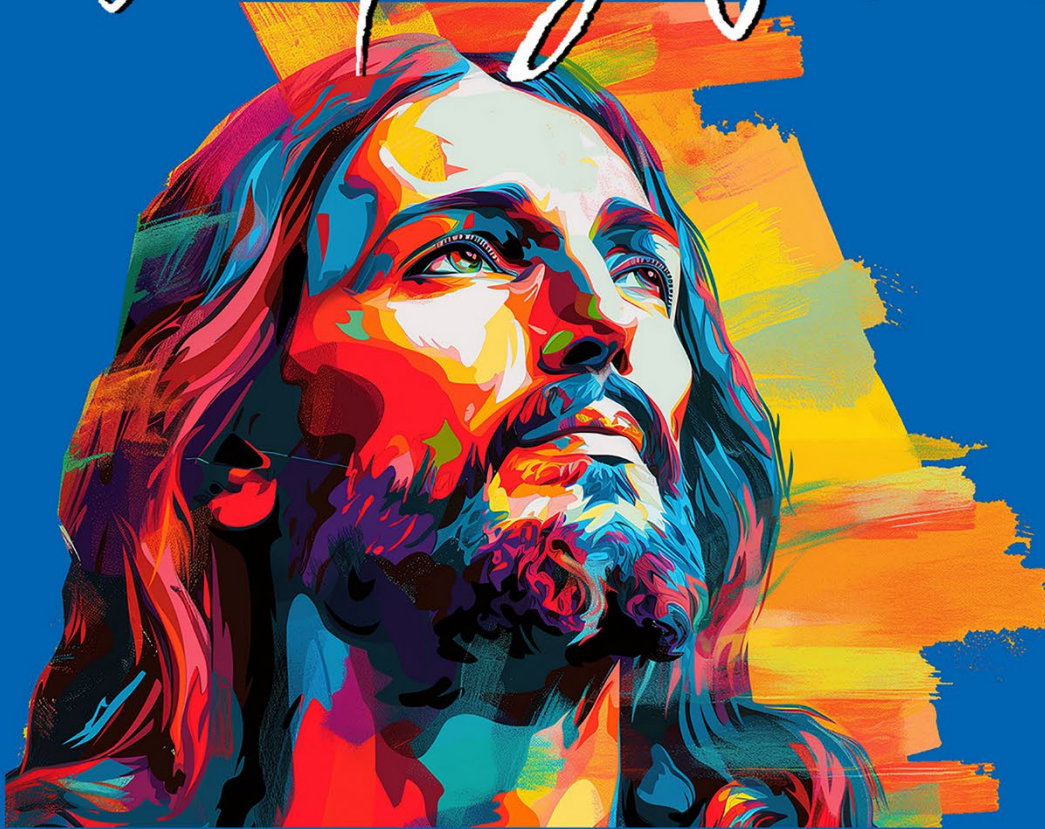


Finding Jesus



Embracing the Complete
Gospel of Jesus, the Christ.

Study Guide

CHARLES S. STUART

Let's Just Imagine!

Let's just imagine what might happen in our family, community, church, nation, and world if all believers **KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH!** helped usher in the

When people embrace their role in the Kingdom of God here on earth, their **EYES, EARS, MIND, HANDS, FEET & VOICE** will be used to reflect their faith.

They will use their **EYES** to look for needs that are unmet, and to watch over those in positions of authority.

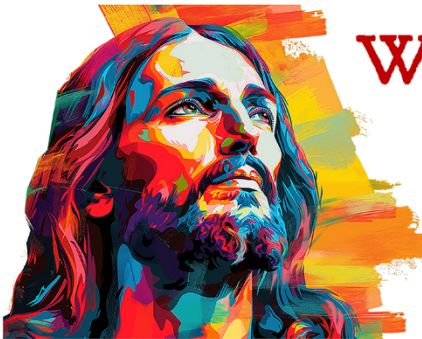
They will use their **EARS** to listen for the cries of those in pain, and to hear and address comments that demean those in need.

They will use their **MIND** to think of ways to get involved and to question for themselves what God would have them do for Him.

They will use their **HANDS** to do what is needed, remembering that it is through their hands that Jesus touches the "least of these."

They will use their **FEET** to go where needed...overseas, across the street or into the voting booth...to bring the Kingdom of God to those in need.

They will use their **VOICE** to speak up and out for those without a voice, and to hold those with power accountable to remember "the least of these" when making decisions.



**Wouldn't it be lovely to live
in a world like that!?!**

Charles Stuart

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About the Author.

Charlie Stuart was raised in the church by faithful, loving parents whose lives of service to “the others” inspired Charlie and his five siblings to purpose their lives to serve others, particularly the “least of these.”



Charlie has been active in the local church all his life serving as: Deacon, adult Bible study leader (20+ years), member of a pastor search committee and all the other committees in the local church.

Charlie graduated from the University of Florida in 1973 with an undergraduate degree in Marketing, with a focus on Economics. He worked in the family's office products company for 16 years and spent the following 20 years as a professional speaker, author, and consultant.

He also made time to volunteer for 25+ years with the YMCA as a local board member and on national task forces for the YMCA of the USA.

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TENTH FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH

**With His Last Words, Jesus
Commands His Followers to Teach
Others the Gospel of Jesus.**

Foundational Truth.

X. With His Last Words, Jesus Commands His Followers to Teach Others the Gospel of Jesus.

In the Gospel of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew, Jesus, the Christ, delivers what is often called the “Great Commission,” the marching orders for His followers, later to be known as Christians.

28 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

This passage has been interpreted through the salvation-only lens as a command from Jesus Christ for believers to share the “born again” message to “save” the world. I do not believe that any other interpretation has been offered or allowed.

But what did Jesus actually say? Let’s look closer at His actual words. By applying the Gospel of Jesus lens His words take on another “Great Commission” meaning...to continue the mission He declared in His first public statement, to fulfill the Kingdom of God on Earth, as it is in heaven.

“All authority...has been given to Me...”

Jesus, the Christ, tells us in clear, unambiguous language, that He speaks with the full power of God, His Father, and the Holy Spirit. This is the last Word of God giving His followers what they are to do with their lives.

X. With His Last Words, Jesus Commands His Followers to Teach Others the Gospel of Jesus.

“Go...”

He says “go,” not wait. He says “go,” not debate. He says “go,” not delegate. He says “go” — and He means what He says.

“make disciples...”

Disciples don’t just believe what they are taught. They do what they are taught. Disciples are fully on board with the mission and are loyal to faithfully continue making disciples just as Jesus taught them.

“of all nations...”

“All nations” means places where people live together...from family, to neighbors, to villages, to towns, to regions...without regard for race, religious beliefs, language or culture, or oceans. Jesus’s message is for everyone and it’s up to them to choose to follow.

“baptizing them...”

To Jesus, and for the early church, baptism was important as a way of declaring an individual’s commitment to follow the teaching of Jesus, to turn away from old ways and to live by this new “Way,” and to indicate belief in the mystery of eternal salvation given by God’s grace.

“in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

Jesus leaves no doubt about who is in control. Not a person or a preacher. Not a king or a prince. Not a nation or a culture. All disciples will have the same allegiance to the living and eternal God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Foundational Truth.

“teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”

Jesus gives clear direction for what is to be taught to His followers. Called the Gospel of Jesus, it is right there in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. Nothing more. Nothing less.

“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The use of “I am” by Jesus as expressed in Matthew refers to the original name God told Moses in Exodus 3:14, “I AM THAT I AM.” This is God in all His forms... God the Father, Jesus the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit.

“I AM with you always”

Jesus makes this two-fold promise: I AM “with you always – to the end of the age.” Think for a moment about what He said.

I AM is with me. He’s not somewhere far away in a different time and place. He is “with you always” from the moment you commit your life to following the Gospel of Jesus until the Gospel of the Christ assures your eternal salvation.

“until the end of the age”

At death, with faith in the Gospel of the Christ, we instantly are in eternal relationship with Jesus and His Father. Some followers of the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ, may be alive to experience the ‘end of the age’ spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24.

X. With His Last Words, Jesus Commands His Followers to Teach Others the Gospel of Jesus. From the first words of His ministry to His last..."

Jesus's first words in His hometown synagogue in Nazareth and His last words, recorded in Matthew 28, frame the beginning and the end of His earthly ministry.

"I came to fulfill the Kingdom of God on Earth."

His First Words as paraphrased by the author.

At the beginning, He asked those listening, and us today, to believe what He said...the prophecy of the world set right, where justice reigns among all people, as the Kingdom of God on Earth has been fulfilled in the name of God and His Son and the Holy Spirit.

"Now it's in your hands to fulfill My mission."

His Last Words as paraphrased by the author.

Jesus's last words to His followers transferred responsibility to those listening, and to us today...but remember...words mean nothing without actions.

Amen.

CONCLUSION.

With this command Jesus expects us, His followers, to work to fulfill the Kingdom of God on Earth through our lives. This is our prime directive just as it was for Jesus. If you believe in Jesus for your salvation, you are, then, committed to being a Follower of the Gospel of Jesus.

Foundational Truth.

Where do you stand?

Have you accepted the Gospel of the Christ for your salvation? If so, do you also accept the Gospel of Jesus for your way of living?

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If you do accept the Gospel of the Christ and the Gospel of Jesus, will you share your commitment with your pastor and others in your spiritual community?

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We are to go, make Followers everywhere, baptize and teach them to obey what Jesus did, said, and taught - the Gospel of Jesus.

And He will be with us now and forever.

In the name of Jesus, His Father,
and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CHARLES STUART