

## Jaffray Project Small Group Curriculum

### Week 1

#### Ice Breaker Question:

What are areas in your life that have opened your eyes to God's love?

#### Verse(s):

Great Commission: Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20).

Great Commandment: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40).

**Study:** Jesus' final statement in Matthew is so revealing. In Matthew 28:16 the disciples "go where Jesus had told them to go," and they "worshiped him; but some doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Isn't that the most curious thing to read, yet encouraging at the same time? Face to face with the resurrected Christ, it's possible to both worship, and doubt, and Jesus seems to say "Okay, I can work with this!"

We sometimes skip to the verse 19 of this Great Commission, the "go" part, but look at where Jesus starts. He says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18). As much as we fail to see it sometimes in our broken world, Jesus has already won. Jesus has been given all authority in Heaven and on earth. Everything has been placed under His rule, even while we wait for it to be placed under His feet.

But observe the critical turn with what Jesus says next. He could say, "therefore go home and relax, disciples, 'cause I got this." But He doesn't say that. He tells us to get to work.

The Great Commandment is a test by the Pharisees, who heard about the previous interaction in Matthew 22:23-33.

*That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. "Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for him. Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. Finally, the woman died. Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"*



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*Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”*

*When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching (Matthew 22:23-33).*

The parallel account of the Great Commandment is in Luke 10, where the conversation continues with “Who is my neighbour?” and Jesus answers with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Loving your neighbour isn’t just about loving those people who are living next to you, it’s about loving all people, even those who seem far away, or disconnected.

*On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”*

*“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”*

*He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

*“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”*

*But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”*

*In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’*

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*“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”*

*The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”*

*Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10: 25-37).*

Folks, we are called to make disciples and to love those around us. Encountering the risen Christ and worshipping Him is a moment that leads to our assignment as loving disciple-makers, raising up disciples who will, in turn, multiply more disciples. Imagine if every believer in our movement spent the next year with just one other person helping that individual mature in their relationship with Jesus, and then empowered them to do the same with someone else.

### Learn More about South Asia:

South Asia has a population of over 4.5 billion people, and less than 1% of those people are Christian. South Asia is the single largest concentration of least-reached people in the world—these are people who have never heard about Jesus or had access to the Gospel. With such an unfathomably large number, the need is immense. If we want to see lives transformed, we must be willing to establish long-term partnerships, invest in people, and pray fervently.

The Alliance is partnered with an organization in South Asia who is raising leaders who are called to lead multiplying disciples. Our partner has communities with people that are city dwellers as well as people in jungle villages and remote tribes. We are thrilled to be an international partner that is engaging in transforming lives in South Asia.

People who live in this part of the world are hungry for this revelational love. They are waiting to hear the Good News. How will they hear if we do not make the effort to reach them and tell them? No one person can do this alone, but together through a global partnership we can see eternal transformation.





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### Week 1

#### Reflect/Discuss:

- When do you find it difficult to love God?
- Who is someone you find difficult to love? (Consider your neighbourhood, work, school, and church.)
- What would it look like if you began showing love to that person, or to someone from that group of people?
- What would it take for you to begin taking that action?
- How are you going to show love to God this week? What about to those around you?
- Is there anything that keeps you from being passionate about God's message of love, forgiveness, and salvation that you keep it to yourself? If so, what are those things?
- What would it look like if you were so excited about the message of God's love and salvation that you couldn't contain yourself?
- Make a list of the people that are in your life who are important to you. How many of those people don't know Christ?

#### Prayer Points:

- Pray for the people in your life who doesn't know Christ
- Pray for people in South Asia who don't know Christ
- Pray that God would move in people's hearts to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment



## Jaffray Project Small Group Curriculum

### Week 2

#### Ice Breaker Question:

What is the nicest thing a neighbour has done for you?

#### Verse(s):

Great Commission: Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20).

Great Commandment: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40).



**Study:** Last time we talked about the Great Commission and the Great Commandment, now time we’ve come to a crossroads – the point at which these two intersect.

The Greatest Commandment is about loving God and investing in practical needs. It’s about addressing the horizontal dimensions of life, reaching out, people helping people.

The Great Commission is about investing in spiritual needs. It’s about addressing the vertical dimension of life – reaching up – by restoring (or developing) one’s relationship with God. Which is more important? Which should be done first?

The Greatest Commandment and the Great Commission shouldn’t be in competition with each other. They are not parallel roads; rather, they intersect.

The Great Commission isn’t merely “go and win converts” or “go and tell people about Jesus and then never talk to them ever again.” The Great Commission is, “go and make **disciples.**” Disciples being people who are intentionally following Jesus and living a life that reflects His—it takes work to be a disciple.

At the end of Luke 10 Jesus says, “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10: 37). In this verse, He’s saying to go and love your neighbour like the Good Samaritan loved their neighbour.

Love is an action, it’s not just an emotion. It involves every part of who you are. When you love someone with your whole heart, you are committing your emotion, thoughts, actions, and every part of you to loving them. When we love God and our neighbours, we aren’t just doing a nice thing once and then moving on, or saying a prayer and then forgetting, we are actively engaged throughout our entire day.

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### Week 2

Think of what it's like to be in love, or to have a best friend—you want to spend all your time with them. You want to do kind things for them and show them that you care. You are excited at the thought of making them happy. Imagine how your life would change if you were actively loving God and those around you.

As Christians we are called to love God, and to love those around us. No matter how our views differ, what their annoying habits are, or how they treat those around them. It's our role to actively love everyone we interact with. Specifically, we are called to love others like we love ourselves. Do you give yourself second chances? Do you forgive yourself when you mess up? Do you think highly of yourself, even though sometimes you may get frustrated with yourself? The answer to all of these is likely "yes!" This is how we are called to love those around us!

Agape love is not passive, and it's not only emotional. The love referred to in the Great Commandment is the love of Yahweh. This love is an active response of faithful person loving God. Agape refers to connection and emotion—when God cares for his creation, it can be called loving kindness, which is a covenant term. It is not a passive emotion, but active mercy.

When you show your neighbour active mercy, you are showing them that you are choosing to love them. You are choosing to love despite their flaws, their quirks, or anything else.

What is a better way to love those around us than to share the Good News with them? When we share the Gospel with our neighbours, we are inviting them to learn about how their lives can be transformed.

**Learn more about South Asia:** Over a billion people spread across 500,000 villages who have never encountered the Gospel; 1000s of languages without a Bible; a mission field the size of which this generation has never seen. And it's still growing by nearly the population of Canada every single year. And doors aren't exactly open to missionaries from Western countries. The radicalizing fear of outside political influence makes it nearly impossible for most humanitarian efforts—let alone traditional 'missionaries'—to get a foot in the door.





## Jaffray Project Small Group Curriculum

### Week 2



The South Asia Project is supporting a training program and community transformation initiative for indigenous church planters in South Asia. Our goal is multifaceted. Our partners will deploy new leaders who are equipped theologically and practically to share the Gospel and multiply faith communities. This cohort of new leaders will begin replicating new communities of faith by when they graduate. The training takes candidates through a curriculum which includes character building, learning the Old and New Testament, spiritual warfare, English language development, evangelism and pastoral work, and practical skill development they can take back to help their communities flourish.

The leaders come from a variety of people groups and villages. After their training, they return to their local villages to plant faith communities. They will continue to plant numerous faith communities in their careers and identify new local leaders from within their communities in order to expand the work at a greater scale. Ideally, the program is self-regenerative; leaders are trained, plant faith communities, and identify future leaders in their local congregations, who are then trained, and go out and plant faith communities, continuing the cycle.

#### **Reflect and Discuss:**

Are you equally passionate about spiritual transformation (eternity) and social transformation (practical needs)? If not, why not?

What would it look like if you were as excited about spiritual transformation as you were about meeting the practical needs of people? Where in your life can you use your existing activities meeting the practical needs of people to also meet their spiritual needs?

In 1-2 sentences, explain how Jesus' love for you compels you to do things for others.

What could you do to show love to a neighbour this week?

#### **Prayer Points:**

- Pray that God would open your eyes to opportunities to love your neighbours
- Pray for boldness in loving others
- Pray for church planters in South Asia

## Jaffray Project Small Group Curriculum

Week 3



### Icebreaker:

Share about a time in your life when you felt God was guiding you.

### Verse:

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible”- (Matthew 19:26).

**Study:** What gets the way of whole-heartedly serving God? Are you blinded by worldly possession? Does fear cripple your ability to step out in faith? In Matthew 19:26 Jesus is responding to the disciples’ question “who can be saved?” Jesus has just explained how hard it is to be saved.

*Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”*

*“Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”*

*“Which ones?” he inquired.*

*Jesus replied, “You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’[c] and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’[d]”*

*“All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”*

*Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*

*When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.*



## Jaffray Project Small Group Curriculum

### Week 3

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”*

*When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”*

*Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:16-26).*

When Jesus said, “with God all things are possible” He was not saying a general catchphrase to be applied anywhere and everywhere. He is speaking specifically about things that get in the way of truly, wholeheartedly following Jesus. The kind of dramatic life change that seems impossible to the disciples—the rich entering the kingdom, the young ruler selling all his possessions—is possible with God.

The idea is that we cannot be saved, or enter the Kingdom, out of our own power. It must be on account of God. In Matthew 19, there is also the story of Jesus and the little children.

*Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.*

*Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there (Matthew 19:13-14).*

This is a positive example of how we should approach the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus also answers Peter immediately after this verse and affirms that he will be part of the Kingdom, and that the Kingdom includes a whole new family, many times larger than Peter’s natural family.

*Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”*

*Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife[e] or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first (Matthew 19:27-30).*

All of these verses, especially Matthew 19:26, should be generally applied and should give disciples of Jesus great comfort. All things are possible because God exists and loves us. God will accomplish His purposes.



## Jaffray Project Small Group Curriculum

### Week 3

In Luke 22 Jesus is in the garden praying.

*Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground (Luke 22:39-44).*

How often do we pray "Not my will, but yours be done"? God is capable of saving sinners and giving them eternal life; no one can hijack this power, but perhaps the most useful question is: how will we respond to God's power? We should respond with humility, submission, and trust. We recognize that He has a sovereign plan, and that we have to trust that He is going to do what is best.

Rather than focusing on the negative "what ifs" we need to focus on positive "what ifs". Instead of "What if that person is going to think I'm weird if I ask to pray for them?" ask yourself, "What if that person's life will be transformed by God if I ask to pray for them?" Whenever fear creeps in, take a moment to remind yourself that through God all things are possible, and that His plan is one we can trust.

**Learn more about South Asia:** What if, in between soccer conversations and Sunday services, you could help spread the Gospel to the largest least-reached population in the world? What if one of the very best ways to reach this far-away mission field was to stay engaged right here on your own?

Partnership is a core value of the Alliance's international work, and we've earned this reputation all over the world. We are privileged to be able to join local indigenous leadership as God uses us together to expand the spread of the gospel through planting faith communities, national strategies, and other resources. However, we also bring partnership home, connecting churches and individuals to ministry opportunities like online international mentoring: a pandemic-proof platform for sharing the love of Christ with people in a distant country.

Most of us feel uneasy or unprepared to start conversations with our neighbours or share our faith openly. But it doesn't have to be that way... really! Becoming an online mentor is really all about walking alongside someone in their journey – no matter where they're at. If you sincerely desire to encourage others and guide them in taking the next steps in their spiritual walk, you can become a mentor. Mentoring is not counselling, nor is it intended to replace professional help. As a mentor, your role is to empathize, provide people with helpful resources, and guide them in their spiritual journey. If you're a caring person who is in a committed and growing relationship with God, you can become a mentor!

To learn more visit <https://tmm.io/>

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### Week 3

#### Reflect/Discuss:

What are the reasons you have for not engaging in the Great Commission?

What would it look like if you were willing to give up everything to be a disciple of Jesus? What would it look like if you ignored your “buts”, trusting God to give you what you need to do the work He has called you to do? What might you be able to accomplish for God’s kingdom here on earth?

What are you willing to do this week to begin breaking down your barriers to doing what God is asking you to do? What do you need to ask of God to help you be successful despite your limitations?

#### Prayer Points:

- Pray that the people mentoring will be bold in sharing and supporting people in South Asia
- Pray for open eyes to recognize what your “but” looks like and how it may be preventing you from engaging in the Great Commission
- Pray that courage will overtake fear when it comes to stepping out in faith





## Jaffray Project Small Group Curriculum

### Week 4

#### Ice Breaker Question:

Who in your life doesn't personally know God?

#### Verse:

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace – (Acts 20:24).

**Study:** This verse in Acts is from Paul, at the end of a lengthy farewell speech to the Elders of the church at Ephesus. He's going away, but the people he's talking to aren't going away. He was talking to the whole church who was involved in what he was doing. Even though he was travelling, and they weren't, they were still working together on a shared missions.

Acts 20: 22-38

*"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.*

*"Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the*

*Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.*

*"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "*

*When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.*



## Jaffray Project Small Group Curriculum

Week 4



The community behind Paul is supporting him and continuing his ministry when he leaves. In verse 35, Paul mentions working tirelessly for the weak, by which he probably is referring to non-Christians. He also says that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Paul says all of this as he expects to be persecuted, but he is still anticipating accomplishing his purpose in sharing the Gospel.

This is Paul's ministry, and despite anticipating the worst, he is still committed. If this was Paul's ministry, what is your ministry? Many people gathered to hear Paul and to see him off, what was their ministry? Was it any less important? Of course not!

As we wrap up this series and get "sent into the world" we must recognize that God has entrusted a ministry to each of us. It doesn't matter if you're a teacher, an engineer, a librarian, or any other job, if you're a Christian, you have a ministry. You have a mission.

Ministry work is not reserved for people who are traditional missionaries or pastors; rather, ministry is for everyone. It is how we approach our everyday life; it is how we reflect God in all that we do, it is actively listening to God's calling on our lives.

Your ministry may be serving in practical ways to meet needs, it may be giving to the Church, it may be showing love to your neighbour, it may be all the above. There are opportunities to support the Jaffray Project at home: through giving, through sharing about the work, through mentoring people in South Asia or people in your church. Paul leaving for ministry in Jerusalem didn't make the ministries of the people who were part of the church in Acts any less important.

Your ministry is important.

## Jaffray Project Small Group Curriculum

### Week 4

**Learn More about South Asia:** In South Asia, our partners are working with South Asians to reach South Asians. The Alliance is initially focused on funding two new training centres that will be built as a place to train leaders who are eager to plant multiplying faith communities. The partnerships in South Asia are long-term commitments, and we are excited to see how they will develop.

Marketplace refers to the places and spaces where we live our vocational lives, whether in Canada or in another country. Generally, it refers to all the places where we live and work—the places we are in regular interaction with people. Who can be engaged in the Marketplace? Anyone. Think you can't contribute? Think again. Your work is your ministry. Your ministry is your work. In whatever you do in your life and work, you are to do it for the glory of God (Colossians 3:17). You can do that confidently because you are already God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do the good things He planned for you long ago (Ephesians 2:10)

#### Reflect / Discuss:

In what ways do you spend your time that keeps you from fulfilling the Great Commission? What keeps you distracted? What's your hesitation?

What would it look like if you went now, without hesitation? Where, or to whom, would you go?

Are you willing to eliminate things that distract you from the Great Commission?

#### Prayer Points:

- Pray for our partners as they work with South Asians to reach South Asia
- Pray against distractions and hesitations that may be hindering you from fulfilling the Great Commission
- Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel

