

A. Examining the texts.

1. Read Matthew 28:1-18. What two theories does Matthew put forward as an explanation of the “empty tomb?” How does he explain each?
2. Read Matthew 28:19-20. What is the “foundational clause” for Jesus’ great commission? That is- what is its basis and how was it given to him?
3. Read Matthew 28:19-20 again- why is the natural progression of the resurrection- the great commission or why is Easter a mission launch pad?

B. Meditation & application

4. How important is the resurrection to the Christian faith and why?
5. What effect did the resurrection have on the disciples- how did it change them and shape the rest of their lives? And by implication- how should it shape us?
6. What is discipling and how could you be involved in it? Who could you, do you, will you, disciple because God raised Jesus up from the grave?
7. What does baptism mean and what does this passage say about obedience to king Jesus? What is the great promise of this text and how was it realized in the life of the disciples then and now?

Dear heavenly Father, Thank you for sending Jesus. Help us to recognize him as our King and our Lord. Teach us to obey, to follow and to live for Christ- going, making and being his disciples for Jesus sake and his glory we pray- amen!