

## Why make disciples? (Part 2)

### Getting started

1. What are your long-term plans? What kind of long-term plans do your friends have?

2. Why might we be tempted to doubt that God has a long-term plan?

### From last week (Matthew 28)...

3. What reality about Jesus drives his command to make disciples?

In this study we find further motivation for making disciples. It comes in seeing how Jesus fulfils God's plans to fix the whole world.

We could find many examples of how Jesus completes what the Old Testament looks forward to, but we will focus on one – how Jesus is the 'Son of Man'.

This is the most common way for Jesus to refer to himself in the Gospels.

### Read Daniel 7

4. What do the beasts represent in general terms?

5. What does God (the Ancient of Days) give to the Son of Man?

6. From Isaiah 48:11, why is it surprising that God does this?

7. Read Matthew 17:22-23, 25:31-32 and 26:62-64. What indications are there that Jesus is the Son of Man as promised in Daniel 7?

8. So what does the Son of Man do with his authority? Read the following passages and complete the table (perhaps dividing the passages within your group).

What do you learn about...	Ephesians 2:1-7, 5:8	Colossians 1:9-20	Revelation 7:9-17
...the end towards which God is moving everything (including us)?			
...the place of Jesus Christ in God's plans?			
...the condition of humanity/the nations without Christ?			
...the significance of Jesus' death in God's plans?			
...why making disciples is important?			

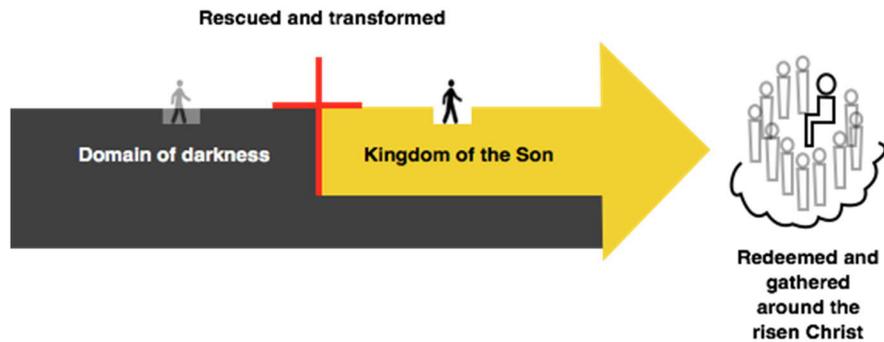
9. So what is happening when someone becomes a disciple of Christ:

- According to an unbeliever's perspective.
- According God's perspective.

## Implications

Based on everything we've seen in studies 1 and 2, we want to make more and more disciples of Jesus Christ because God's goal for the whole world and the whole of human history is to glorify his beloved Son in the midst of the people he has rescued and transformed.

We could represent this diagrammatically like this:



10. What do you like/dislike about the diagram? How does it help you make sense of God's plan?

11. Do your long-term plans fit within God's long-term plan?

12. Based on what we've seen so far, why do you think many churches lose motivation and urgency for making more disciples of Jesus? How would you describe your own urgency for the task, and that of your church?

Give thanks and pray about the things you've seen in this study.

Keep praying for those in your 'Catch the Vision' planner who you want to become disciples of Jesus