

# The Last Arrow

Week 5 – January 31, 2021

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20 and Matthew 3:13-17

*Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!*

**Share:** Is there a personal goal you are currently working on or recently completed? Share with your group.

**Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Matthew 3:13-17 together:** Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

## **Discuss the following context:**

This series, based on the book *The Last Arrow* by Erwin McManus, is a journey of shifting our perspectives, increasing our passion for this life, and looking at how we are prepared to have an impact. A quick summary of the past 4 weeks: Save nothing for the next life; Find your people and reshape your circle; Choose the future by choosing Jesus and His faithfulness; Be battle ready because following Jesus will be difficult and costly.

In our final week of the series, we look at *the release*. It is the moment you shoot your arrow, and it is released towards your target. It is all the preparations you worked hard at, all the time you invested, all the prayer and reflection and leaning into God's voice. We must ask ourselves: Is the arrow pointed at a target? Do we hit the target? Are we focusing on the right target? Moving towards a life of contribution and impact, and away from a life of consuming, happens when we aim for what matters most.

## **Share your thoughts about following questions:**

1. Today we celebrate baptism, an outward expression of an inward decision to follow Jesus. Baptism is found in the instructions Jesus gives His disciples before ascending into Heaven. (Matthew 28:18-20) Before Jesus leaves His disciples, He *releases* them into the future – the future focus, the future purpose, the target of what He wants His followers to do. How does baptism anchor us into Jesus' own story? (Matthew 3:13-17) Discuss how baptism isn't the *target*, but rather the *release*.
2. In your own words, describe the target. How can baptism strengthen our souls to be released towards this target?
3. Baptism can also be described as an "anchor" moment. Anchor points remind us that we cling to an unshakable kingdom in a shakable world.
  - a. What types of waves can we withstand when we are anchored to Jesus?
  - b. How can our identity be formed and strengthened when we are anchored to Jesus?

**Pray together:** Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God that when we are anchored to Him, and aim at what matters most, we can bring hope to a hurting world. Ask God to remind you of the target you are aiming for, and to be released on mission to expand the Kingdom through your spheres of influence.

*Jesus, cultivate our hearts to care about the things you care about, and to let go of the things you don't.*