

## Lesson Overview

### Biblical Passage

Matthew 28:16–20

### Supporting Passage

Acts 1:6–8

### Memory Verse

Matthew 28:18–20

### Biblical Truth

Jesus commissioned all believers to become disciple-makers among the nations.

### Context

The Great Commission is the ultimate expression of Christ's call to embrace the purpose of God and to declare His glory to all nations. This passage also outlines a biblical pattern for disciple-making. No passage of Scripture gives a clearer mandate to believers to be on mission. No passage gives clearer details about the purpose and practice of our commission. The Great Commission is our invitation to share the gospel with all nations.

### Learning Goals

- **Explore Goal:** Students will understand that Jesus has commissioned all believers to follow a pattern for disciple-making among the nations.
- **Transform Goal:** Students will apply their understanding by accepting their commission from Christ.

### Prayer Suggestions

As you prepare for this lesson, pray for your students.

- Pray that students will know that they have been authorized and empowered by Christ to make disciples among all the nations.
- Pray that students will be able to see how they fit into the picture of God's plan in making disciples among all the nations.
- Pray that students will embrace the challenge of taking the gospel to other nations.

## Biblical Commentary

### Investigation

The Gospel of Matthew was written to demonstrate to a Jewish audience that Jesus of Nazareth is the [Messiah](#) and the King of the Jews predicted by the Old Testament. Chapter 28 relates the climax of that process. In it, Matthew describes Resurrection Sunday, in which the women found an empty tomb. They were informed by an angel concerning Jesus' resurrection, then they met the risen Messiah on their way to report to the [apostles](#). Jesus gave the women a message for the apostles: He would meet them in Galilee. After briefly noting the falsehood concocted and spread about by the Jewish religious leaders, Matthew closed his Gospel with a striking account of our Lord's remarkable challenge to His followers to change the world, a challenge known as the Great Commission. Matthew recorded the Great Commission as the vehicle for transmitting the gospel truth of the resurrected Messiah to the entire world. He is not simply the Messiah of Israel; He is the resurrected Messiah of all who trust in Him, both Jews and Gentiles alike.

### Importance

The Great Commission has been referred to as "the marching orders of the Church." These words spell out the primary privilege and responsibility of believers. The Church cannot disregard this mandate because it has been God's plan since the beginning of time to involve His people in His plan and purpose. This passage of Scripture points out that [The Church is God's Plan](#). From the earliest days, the Church's paramount task has been to make disciples. All other matters related to the Church fall under this banner.

The Great Commission propels global mission work and motivates all followers of Christ to take the gospel to other cultures and other lands. These words of Jesus clearly place great responsibility upon the Church.

### Interpretation

Matthew 28:16 The apostles were told that Jesus would meet them in Galilee (Matt. 26:32, 28:7, 28:10), so [the Twelve](#), who

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had now become [the Eleven](#) due to the defection and death of [Judas Iscariot](#), made their way to Galilee. There they met Jesus on a mountain that He had previously designated.

We have no way of identifying exactly which Galilean mountain Jesus chose. Mountains were an important feature of Jesus' earthly ministry. He preached His Sermon on the Mount, was transfigured on a mountain, taught the Olivet Discourse on a mountain, and ascended from the Mount of Olives. It seems that mountains were important places of teaching and revelation for Jesus. Perhaps that is why Jesus chose a mountain for this significant meeting with the Eleven.

Matthew 28:17 When the women met the risen Savior on the day of the resurrection, they worshiped Him (Matt. 28:9). The Eleven did the same as they fell on their faces before Him. Such worship is the proper response to the realization that Jesus is the conqueror of death, the living Messiah.

Matthew, however, includes the puzzling statement: "But some doubted." Perhaps the Eleven worshiped Him while others who were with them doubted. If this is true, then this may have been the occasion to which Paul referred when more than 500 believers at one time saw the resurrected Jesus (1 Cor. 15:6). Or perhaps it was the Eleven who both worshiped and doubted. Initially, Jesus was distant from them, but when He came and spoke to them, they saw that their doubt was without merit. Regardless of who specifically doubted, the fact that Matthew recorded the doubt of some is an indication of the truthfulness and authenticity of his account.

Matthew 28:18 The words of Jesus that conclude Matthew's Gospel contain a great claim (v. 18), a great challenge (vv. 19-20), and a great comfort (v. 20). Jesus' opening statement was majestic, universal, and awe-inspiring. He claimed unrestricted universal sovereignty, the fullest possible authority in the universe. The limitations that applied during His incarnation no longer applied to Him. He is the supreme authority in the universe. The risen Messiah was the one through whom all of God's authority would now be channeled. He was now the mediating Messiah. This authority was given to Him by God the Father (Phil. 2:5-11).

Matthew 28:19 The word therefore should not be overlooked. Because Jesus' dominion is majestic and inexhaustible, the commission and message of His followers are universal, meaning that they are for both Jews and Gentiles. His sovereign, universal authority is the basis for the commission and is the means for its accomplishment. The work of disciple-making is conducted under the lordship of Christ.

Several features of the Great Commission should be noted. First, the environment of the commission is found in the word Go. In the original text, this word is a participle, which highlights the circumstances within which the command of the commission is to be carried out. It has the idea of "as you go," stressing the fact that as believers go through the daily activities of living, they are to be carrying out the command of the Lord, making disciples. As believers in Christ pursue their routine activities of life, they are to be about the business of obeying the command. In other words, obeying this command is not to be something different from the usual routine of life; it is to be part-and-parcel of the believer's normal lifestyle that is daily living. Without denying the command aspect of the "Go" in the Great Commission, the point is that the work of discipling people is done as we go about our daily activities.

Second, the instruments of the Great Commission are believers in Christ. This work is not just left in the hands of trained professionals such as ministers, pastors, and missionaries (although it definitely includes them), but it is the task of every Christian. The early Church clearly understood this fact (Acts 8:4).

Third, "make disciples" is the primary and principle word in the commission, and it is the major work that Jesus authorized. The goal is not simply to evangelize, but to make [disciples](#), implying that discipleship begins perhaps before one is evangelized or that evangelism is embodied within disciple-making. Of course, a disciple is one who has heard the gospel and trusted Christ. A disciple, however, is something like an apprentice; he or she is both a learner and a follower who takes Jesus as his teacher and learns from Him. The life of a disciple is different because of his attachment to Jesus. Those who are disciples of Jesus are committed people. "Jesus People" is a good name for them. They in turn become disciple-makers. The goal of the Great Commission is to bring people into a personal relationship with Jesus so that they follow Him and that His character is reproduced in them.

Fourth, the scope of the Great Commission is universal, as the phrase "all nations" points out. The disciples of Christ are to be drawn from among all the ethnic groups of the world. No group is excluded. Our Lord's universal sovereignty calls for a universal discipleship. Here is where the "Go" of the Great Commission becomes a global "Go." To reach people groups other than the ones in our local communities, Christ calls some of us to be cross-cultural disciple-makers. Some of us go under His direction to other lands, other cultures, other regions, and other countries.

Fifth, the Great Commission lays out the characteristics that accompany disciple-making. People from all the nations are to be disciplined with baptism and by teaching. The activity of ceremonial baptism by water is the initial public step in becoming Christ's disciple. It is the method by which the believer in Christ is officially and publicly identified with the triune God. This

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ritual, a simple, meaningful act before witnesses, pictures the union of the believer with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It is the first outward step in the ongoing process of discipleship and edification.

Matthew 28:20 The new disciple is to be baptized as well as taught. The word teaching is the common word in the New Testament for instruction in the doctrines of the faith. So Jesus did not speak about education for education's sake. He spoke of the disciple as obeying what He has commanded. His concern was with a way of life, a pattern of living that reveals (and glorifies) God.

Sixth, the promise of the Great Commission is found in Christ's words: "I am with you always." With this breathtaking promise, Jesus assured His disciples that He would be with them continually. The disciple is not going to be left on his own to serve God as best he can. Rather, he will find a constant companion as he goes on his way through life, making disciples. Whatever the task and wherever it leads, Jesus is present. We can rely on His sustaining and inspiring presence. He will never leave us to own strength or our own devices.

Seventh, the climax of the Great Commission is the Lord's return, pointed out by the phrase, "to the very end of the age." The discipling process and the personal presence of the Lord are to continue until His bodily return at the end of the current age. His return will mark the culmination point of the Great Commission.

Finally, the Great Commission is emphatically a command. Believers in Christ are under obligation to make disciples. We stand required to reproduce the life and character of Christ in others. There is no option. Thankfully, the Lord has given us not only the command, but also the authority, the equipment, the methods, and the power to carry out the command.

### Implications

As a follower of Christ, what is the impact that you hope to make on this world before you leave it? Have you ever thought about that? Has Christ's Great Commission ever made any sort of impact on you to the point that you realized that reaching out to a lost world is the heart and passion of God? If so, what decisions were made as a result? Our lives as Christ's followers are so much more than just showing up at church every week. Jesus infused within His disciples a commission that had such a compelling force that we should immediately see that this is the reason why Christ died and why He chooses to use His disciples in His redemptive work.

We are embarking upon one of the greatest missionary eras ever. Your students are among a generation of missionaries like the world has yet to know and experience. God has implanted within this generation a desire to go all over the world like no other before. How will you use this opportunity to allow God's seed of passion to take root in them?

## Teaching Plan: Connect Activities

*All activity sheets are at the end of this printable lesson*

### Review Questions: God's Global Mission

(5–8 minutes, easy set-up)

*Download the "Review Questions" activity sheet. Print one copy for your own use.*

After greeting students, use the review questions to test what they can recall from the previous lesson as well as to provide context for today's lesson.

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### Drama: Make Disciples

5–10 minutes, easy set-up)

*Download the drama script. Prior to the session, enlist three students to enact the drama. Give copies of the script to cast members ahead of time so that they will be ready to perform it.*

After the drama has been performed, ask: **How was Cary effective at showing Mandy and Chip something about how to begin to make disciples?** Say: **Jesus has given all of us the command to go into all the world and make disciples. Today we'll consider what this looks like.**

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### Reverb Media Option: Where Are You Going?

(3–5 minutes, Reverb Media Pass required)

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*If your church has purchased the Reverb Media Pass or the Reverb DVD, preview and arrange to show the “Where Are You Going” video. (If your church has not purchased the Reverb Media Pass, you can purchase this single video through the “Media” tab.)*

Explain to students that you are going to show a video that will help drive home the truth of today’s lesson. Show the “Where Are You Going?” video. Afterward, ask: **Does this help you visualize the main thrust of Jesus’ commission? What is the main point of Jesus’ commission?** (Answer: That disciples would be made, and that we would be the ones helping to make them.) **If you are honest about your attitude toward the Great Commission, is it something you think about all the time? Or only before you go on mission trips?** Explain your answer. (Allow student to explain their answers.)

Finally, ask: **What would it take for you to say “yes” to Christ’s commission to make disciples as you go through your life? How would that affect your day-to-day living?** Remind students that this is not a change they can make overnight. But they must be willing to accept that they are expected to lead others into a deep relationship with Christ. Help them discuss this idea and challenge them to begin to make the changes necessary to follow through.

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### Especially for Younger Students: Picture This

(5–8 minutes, easy set-up)

*Download the “Picture This” activity sheet. Print one copy, then cut out the pictures. Place several sheets of butcher paper on the walls (one for every two students). Also provide markers with each sheet of paper on the wall.*

Instruct students to find a partner and choose a piece of paper on the wall. Make sure that one of the two students has a marker and that the other has a picture from the “Picture This” activity sheet. Tell the students with the pictures that they must not show theirs to their partner or they will be disqualified. Explain that they are supposed to describe the picture to their partner, whose goal it is to duplicate the picture by drawing it on the butcher paper. Give students a few minutes to complete their pictures. Afterward, judge which drawing is most like the original picture described by one of the students.

Conclude the activity by saying: **Imagine what it would have been like if your partner had told you to draw the picture but never described it to you.** Explain that Jesus gave us specific instructions of what to do in making disciples. Explain further that He also left with us the pattern of how to make disciples so that we wouldn’t have to guess.

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### Especially for Older Students: You're On Your Own

(5–8 minutes, easy set-up)

*Provide several random objects, such as paper, a hymnal, an empty water bottle, a doughnut, pieces of a board game, a soda can, and anything else that you can find. Place all contents in a plastic trash bag.*

Gather students in a circle in the center of the room. Take the plastic trash bag full of all the random items that you’ve collected, then dump everything onto the floor. Say: **Ready? Go!** Your students will likely look at the objects and then at you with odd expressions since they don’t know what to do. When they ask what they are supposed to be doing, don’t answer. Just keep saying, “Go!” Keep this going until students have made some attempt to do something with the materials.

After a couple of minutes, ask: **What did you think that you were supposed to do? Why was it so frustrating? What might have been helpful?** Allow students to respond. Then conclude the activity by saying: **Before Christ ascended into Heaven, He didn’t say, “You’re on your own.” Instead, He gave us specific instructions so that we would know what to do when He said, “Go.”**

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## Teaching Plan: Explore Activities

*All activity sheets are at the end of this printable lesson*

### Key Study: Making Disciples

(15 minutes, easy set-up)

*Download the Student Worksheet. Print a copy for each student. Trace the outline of a person on a sheet of butcher paper. Also provide pens, markers, dry erase board, and a dry erase marker. If you choose, arrange to show the Judea, Samaria, and*

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Galilee at the Time of Christ map and the Life of Christ Timeline available on the Media Tab.

Using the *Judea, Samaria, and Galilee at the of Christ* map, locate Jerusalem and the region of Galilee. Explain to students that after Jesus was resurrected near Jerusalem, His instructions were for His disciples to meet in Him on a mountain in Galilee, at which time He would give them the Great Commission. Point out that Matthew doesn't specify which mountain. Point out using the *Life of Christ Timeline* that the period of Jesus' giving of the Commission and His ascension was around A.D. 29/30.

Distribute pens and copies of the Student Worksheet. Say: **Because I have the authority to do this, I am telling you to walk around the room, greet each other, and relay one thing that you know about Jesus Christ. And as you follow these instructions, ask every person with whom you speak to write his or her name and birthday in the top space of your worksheet.** Give students a couple of minutes to do this, then call them back together. Ask students to share how many signatures and birthdays they collected.

Ask: **What do you recall me saying when I gave you instructions before you walked around the room?** Help students remember that you spoke of having authority, told them what to do, and then said, "As you go . . ." Next, invite a student to read Matthew 28:16–20. Then ask: **Where did Jesus meet His disciples?** (*on a mountain in Galilee*) **How did Jesus begin His message to His disciples?** (*He said that "all authority in heaven and on earth" had been given to Him.*) **If you were to hear someone say that today, what would those words mean to you?** (*Possible answers: The dude is a freak; this is a serious situation; maybe this person is God.*) Share with students that Jesus spoke to His disciples as the risen King of Kings—who was and is and always will be God. Tell them that all authority was and is and always will be His. Comment on how dramatic and compelling that thought is—so much so that it makes a person want to sit up and pay attention to what He has to say.

Divide students into groups of three or four. Lead them to look at Matthew 28:19–20. Ask students to break down these two verses into a list of instructions that Jesus told His disciples to carry out. Give students just a moment to work on this, then bring them together. List their responses on the dry erase board. (1—*Go and make disciples of all nations*; 2—*baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*; 3—*teach them to obey everything that Jesus has commanded*; and 4—*remember that Jesus is always with you while you do these things*.) Go back to the first item on the list. Point to the word *Go* and share with students that in the original Greek text this word is a participle, meaning that it literally says something like "as you go." Say: **Can you remember the exercise at the beginning of the study in which I said, "As you go, ask other students to write their names and birthdays" on your worksheet? What could this mean for Jesus' disciples as well as for us?** (*It means that as we go about our everyday lives, we are to make disciples.*) Explain that for some people, that would quite literally mean that they should make disciples as they travel to other places. Explain further that for everyone it means that wherever they are, wherever they're going, and whatever they're doing, they are to "make disciples."

Finally, ask: **How do you make a disciple?** Direct students' attention to the poster that you made earlier. As students brainstorm ideas of ways to make a disciple, ask them to use the marker to write them on the poster. (*Make friends with others so that you can influence them; teach them what God's Word says, teach them the stories of the Bible; lead them to the Good News of Christ; share your testimony with them; teach them about how Jesus lived and how He commanded us to live; invite them to be part of your Bible study as well as other church activities; lead them to profess faith in Christ and be baptized as a sign of obedience.*) Point to an *Eight Essential Truths* poster and share that **The Church is God's Plan** (If your church has not purchased any of the *Eight Essential Truths* bookmarks or posters, you can print a list from [www.studentlifebiblestudy.com](http://www.studentlifebiblestudy.com).) Explain to students that God is a relational God, and just as Jesus formed relationships with those whom He called to be His disciples (His followers), He calls on us to do the same: Create relationships and make disciples—and do these things everywhere.

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### Master Teacher Key Study: The Great Commission

(15 minutes, easy set-up)

Download the Master Teacher Key Study. Print one copy for your own use. Download the Master Teacher Student Worksheet. Print a copy for each learner. Also provide pens.

Pass out pens and copies of the Master Teacher Student Worksheet. Then use the Master Teacher Key Study to teach Matthew 28:16–20.

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### **Especially for Younger Students: Co-Mission**

(5–8 minutes, easy set-up)

*Provide a dictionary, dry erase board, and marker.*

Hand a dictionary to a student and ask him or her to look up the word commission and read the definition aloud. Then enlist a student to read Matthew 28:18–20. Ask: **Which definition in the dictionary sounds most like Christ's Great Commission in these verses?** (Answer: *the one that has to do with having authority to perform a task or command others to perform that task*)

Next, invite another student to read Acts 1:4–8. Then ask: **If Christ wanted to make it known to the world that He had died, come back to life, and secured the salvation of all, couldn't He have done it on His own? (yes) Why didn't He?** Enlist one more student to read Genesis 12:1–4. Share with students that since the beginning of time, God has always desired to carry on a relationship with His people and work through them to accomplish His purposes. Say: **Jesus commissioned us to make disciples and to be His witnesses.** Ask a student to read Matthew 28:20. Then say: **But Jesus did not intend for us to carry out His commission alone.**

Go to the dry erase board and write "Co-Mission." Then explain that God has a mission and that He has included us in that mission to work with Him to make disciples. Say: **That's how God works.**

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### **Especially for Older Students: What's in a Name?**

(8–10 minutes, moderate set-up)

*Gather several Bible resources, concordances, Bible dictionaries, Bible handbooks, etc. If you have Internet access, go to [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com), [www.zondervanbiblesearch.com](http://www.zondervanbiblesearch.com), or a similar Web-based and Bible-oriented tool. Write each of the following words on its own index card: disciple, heirs, edify, teach, and learn.*

Divide students into small groups, giving each group some Bible resources and an index card with one of the terms written on it. (You may have to give the same word to more than one group if you have more than five groups.) Then instruct students to use the reference tools that they have on hand to list as many details as they can about the words they've been given. Spend this time going from group to group and helping them use the resources.

After several minutes, allow students to share their findings on the words they researched. Afterward, explain to them that we cannot leave this place thinking that we have no purpose in life. Say: **Christ has handed us the greatest task—it is one that He has said He will help us to accomplish. We are to make disciples as we go out into this world. We do it by declaring to others how they can become heirs of God's salvation, build up His Church, and teach others to do what the Word of God says, all the while learning from Christ through His Word, through prayer, through His Holy Spirit, and by learning from God's people (His Church).**

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## **Teaching Plan: Transform Activities**

*All activity sheets are at the end of this printable lesson*

### **Deeper Discussion**

(5–10 minutes, easy set-up)

*Set up the discussion by saying: If we are disciples (followers) of Christ, then we are under His Great Commission. Then ask the following questions:*

- **If Christ is at work in our lives, transforming us from the inside out, how can we not keep from sharing that with others?**
- **What's the difference between merely evangelizing and making disciples?**
- **What opportunities do you have as a student to make disciples right now?**
- **What characteristics do disciple-makers have?**
- **How will you commit to starting the process of making disciples today**

### **Especially for Younger Students: Secret Agent: Maker of Disciples**

(8–10 minutes, easy set-up)

Download the “Secret Agent” activity sheet. Cut out enough strips so that each student has one. Fold the strips in half, then tape the ends together. Also provide a dry erase board and marker. On the board, write: “Where you go, as you go.”

Share with students that the commentary writer for this lesson wrote that, “The goal of the Great Commission is to bring people into a personal relationship with Jesus so that they follow Him and that His character is reproduced in them.”

Next, gather students in a circle and say: **Imagine that you are a secret agent and that you have been handed an assignment.** Pass out the slips of paper with the secret message on them. Give students a moment to read the message, then say: **You know the call, but saying “yes” to this mission means that you walk with God, you don’t deliberately hurt people, you honor people in authority, and that you live your life as a witness to others.**

Point to the dry erase board, on which you have written, “Where you go, as you go.” Ask: **How does this mission apply to you in your world?** Allow students to share scenarios of where they go and how they anticipate living out the Great Commission. Then ask: **Do you accept your commission?**

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### **Especially for Older Students: An “As You Go” Game Plan**

(10 minutes, easy set-up)

Download the “Game Plan” activity sheet. Print one copy for your own use. Also provide a dry erase board and marker.

Help students understand that the Great Commission isn’t for a select group of followers of Christ, but rather it is for all followers of Christ. Say: **Because of Jesus’ command upon our lives, we are all called to be on mission with Him.** Students need to realize that for them the call to action doesn’t begin when they get out of school, but rather right here and now.

On a dry erase board, write: “Living out the mission of God means that your words, your actions, and your lifestyle draws others to Christ and tells others that you are a follower of Christ.” Below this, write: “Home, School, Church, Work, and World.” Ask students to come up with a list of ways in which they can live out the Great Commission in each of these places. Some may fit under all categories. (Possible answers: Live what Scripture teaches; be available to share what you know about what the Bible says; have an active prayer life in which you are seeking God’s will; love people; be a servant; be willing to teach by example; be willing to say what people need to hear rather than what they want to hear.)

Finally, read the testimony from the “Game Plan” activity sheet about one student who decided that he could be available to be a disciple-maker as a teenager. Afterward, lead students in a prayer of commitment to become disciple-makers in their world.

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### **Creative Prayer**

(5–10 minutes, easy set-up)

Provide paper and pens.

Pass out pens and paper, then instruct students to close their eyes and think of one person whom God wants them to begin to disciple. Ask them to write that person’s name on their sheet of paper. Lead students to pray over this person, asking God to provide a way for them to begin the process of disciple-making. Second, lead students to write the names of the places that they routinely visit. Invite students to pray over these places, asking God to make them aware of people there who need their witness in order to become His disciples. Third, ask students to write “My Future” on their papers. Ask students to pray to God to reveal to them where He would have them go in order to make disciples. Say: **Maybe God wants you to stay where you are, but maybe He has plans for you to go to the ends of the earth.** Lead students to pray that God will lead them to a place of commitment for whatever He wants to do in and through their lives.

Encourage students to take their papers with them and put them in a visible place at home as a reminder to seek God’s will in each of these areas of disciple-making.

**Reverb Student Book Option: Devotion**

(5 minutes, Reverb student book required)  
*If your church has purchased the Reverb student book, preview the activity on page 22 titled “Devotion.” If possible, provide a copy of the book to reference as you mention the activity to students.*

As you prepare to wrap up the lesson, remind students that living out the Great Commission is much more than being able to verbally share their faith. Say: **If we are on mission for God, the world will know it by our actions. Our actions will be what open some hearts to the life-changing message of God’s love for them.** If you have a student book available, turn to page 22 and point out the “Devotion” activity. Explain that this activity is a creative short story of what it looks like to live out the Great Commission. Challenge students to read pages 18–23 this week, paying close attention to page 22. Encourage them to think about the implications of living a life that is in line with God’s mission.

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**Biblical Passage:** Matthew 28:16–20

**Biblical Truth:** Jesus commissioned all believers to become disciple-makers among the nations.

### PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

As you prepare for this lesson, pray for your students.

- Pray that students will know that they have been authorized and empowered by Christ to make disciples among all the nations.
- Pray that students will be able to see how they fit into the picture of God’s plan in making disciples among all the nations.
- Pray that students will embrace the challenge of taking the gospel to other nations.

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### COMPLETE SUPPLY LIST

#### **Connect . . .**

- ❑ **Review Questions: God’s Global Mission**—copy of the “Review Questions” activity sheet
- ❑ **Drama: Make Disciples**—copies of the drama script; any necessary props
- ❑ **Especially for Younger Students: Picture This**—copy of the “Picture This” activity sheet; butcher paper; markers
- ❑ **Especially for Older Students: You’re on Your Own**—random objects; plastic trash bag

#### **Explore . . .**

- ❑ **Key Study: Making Disciples**—copies of the Student Worksheet; pens; butcher paper; markers; dry erase board; marker; *Judea, Samaria, and Galilee at the Time of Christ* map; *Life of Christ Timeline*
- ❑ **Master Teacher Key Study: The Great Commission**—copy of the Master Teacher Key Study; copy of the Master Teacher Student Worksheet; pens
- ❑ **Especially for Younger Students: Co-Mission**—dictionary; dry erase board; marker
- ❑ **Especially for Older Students: What’s in a Name?**—Bible resources; Bible concordances; Bible dictionaries; Bible handbooks; index cards

#### **Transform . . .**

- ❑ **Deeper Discussion**—No supplies needed
- ❑ **Especially for Younger Students: Secret Agent: Maker of Disciples**—copies of the “Secret Agent” activity sheet; tape; dry erase board; marker
- ❑ **Especially for Older Students: An “As You Go” Game Plan**—copy of the “Game Plan” activity sheet; dry erase board; marker
- ❑ **Creative Prayer**—paper; pens
- ❑ **Reverb Student Book Option: Devotion**—*Reverb* student book

*Drive: the Mission of God in the World*  
Lesson 2, Review Questions

1. In Psalm 67, the psalmist asks God to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. destroy His enemies
  - b. save His people
  - c. be gracious and bless His people
  - d. abandon the people of Israel
2. In Psalm 67, the psalmist says that God's blessings serve the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. redeeming His people
  - b. rubbing others' noses in the fact that they aren't blessed
  - c. motivating His people to do right
  - d. making Himself known to the nations
3. In Psalm 67, the psalmist calls on God's people to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. love God
  - b. praise God
  - c. repent
  - d. be silent
4. What does the psalmist say in Psalm 67 that the result of praise to God will be?
  - a. living in the lap of luxury
  - b. receiving eternal life
  - c. others coming to know God
  - d. nothing
5. According to Psalm 67, God's purpose in the world is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. to make Himself known
  - b. to hand out blessings to His people
  - c. to destroy those who do not believe
  - d. to bring people into submission to His will

*Drive: the Mission of God in the World*  
Lesson 2, Answers

1. In Psalm 67, the psalmist asks God to \_\_\_\_\_. (*Lesson 1*)
  - a. destroy His enemies
  - b. save His people
  - c. be gracious and bless His people**
  - d. abandon the people of Israel
2. In Psalm 67, the psalmist says that God's blessings serve the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_. (*Lesson 1*)
  - a. redeeming His people
  - b. rubbing others' noses in the fact that they aren't blessed
  - c. motivating His people to do right
  - d. making Himself known to the nations**
3. In Psalm 67, the psalmist calls on God's people to \_\_\_\_\_. (*Lesson 1*)
  - a. love God
  - b. praise God**
  - c. repent
  - d. be silent
4. What does the psalmist say in Psalm 67 that the result of praise to God will be? (*Lesson 1*)
  - a. living in the lap of luxury
  - b. receiving eternal life
  - c. others coming to know God**
  - d. nothing
5. According to Psalm 67, God's purpose in the world is \_\_\_\_\_. (*Lesson 1*)
  - a. to make Himself known**
  - b. to hand out blessings to His people
  - c. to destroy those who do not believe
  - d. to bring people into submission to His will

## Make Disciples

### Characters:

CHIP  
MANDY  
CARY

**Props:** iPod, ear buds

**Costumes:** Chip and Mandy should be dressed casually. Cary should be dressed as an Indie rocker.

**Creative Note:** Christ commanded all believers to go and make disciples. We discover here that Christians aren't the only ones who can win converts. Perhaps we can learn a lesson here about disciple-making. Feel free to substitute band and track names with whatever might be appropriate for your audience. It is important that the actress playing Cary be passionate about the band. If you like, substitute a cell phone that plays music for the iPod and ear buds.

*(CHIP and MANDY enter in mid-discussion.)*

CHIP: Hey, did you look at that same passage in your small group on Sunday?

MANDY: You mean the Great Commission?

CHIP: Yeah. I just don't get it.

MANDY: What's to get? "Go and make disciples of all nations." That's pretty clear.

CHIP: It's that "all nations" part that I don't know what to do with. I can give money, maybe go on a mission trip, but let's get real: For the most part, I'm not in "all nations."

MANDY: So make disciples here.

CHIP: Easier said than done.

MANDY: Why's that?

CHIP: Look, it's one thing to go tell people who have never heard of Jesus.

CHIP: That news is as fresh to them as it was to the people in the Bible. But look around. There's a church on every corner. And it's the same in the next town, and the next, and so on and so on.

MANDY: So you're off the hook. Is that what you're saying?

CHIP: No. I'm saying that it's old news. The people I know are either on board with Jesus or they're not interested. Either way, it's not news to them anymore.

MANDY: I see what you're saying. Then it seems to me that our job is to get those folks who aren't interested, well, interested.

CHIP: Yeah, but how do you do that?

*(CARY enters excitedly.)*

CARY: Hey!

MANDY: Hey, Cary.

CHIP: What's up?

CARY: Am I interrupting?

MANDY: No. We were just having . . .

CHIP: A theological debate.

CARY: Oh. Okay. Well, I won't keep you. I just wanted to see what the two of you are doing this Friday night.

*(CHIP and MANDY look at each other and shrug.)*

CARY: *(excitedly)* Then you have to come see Red Giant at Cave Nine!

CHIP: See what?

CARY: Red Giant. They're a band. Preston's cousin is the drummer.

MANDY: Oh, yeah, I've heard of them.

CHIP: Who do they sound like?

CARY: They're, like, awesome. It's like Paper House meets I Am Terrified.

CHIP: Are those names of bands?

CARY: *(disbelieving)* Uh . . . yeah!

MANDY: *(apologetically)* He only listens to the radio.

CARY: *(shocked)* The radio? There's nothing good on the radio anymore. It's controlled by corporate zombies. I find all my music online. And through friends. *(brightening)* Like you're finding out about Red Giant through me!

CHIP: You still haven't told me what they're like.

*(CARY gets out her iPod and ear buds.)*

CARY: Okay. I'll play you a track. Now, most people would play you something from their new CD, which is great, but I love the "Leaves Fall" EP. Listen to this song.

*(CHIP and MANDY split the ear buds as CARY plays them a track. They listen for a moment. CARY studies their expressions for their reaction.)*

CARY: Isn't that awesome?

MANDY: Yeah, it's great!

CHIP: It's okay.

CARY: Wait a minute. Listen to this one.

*(CARY plays them a new track. CHIP looks up, intrigued.)*

CHIP: What is that sound?

CARY: *(smiling)* Isn't it cool?

CHIP: Is that a guitar?

CARY: I don't know. But it sounds awesome.

CHIP: Yeah, it's okay.

*(They hand the ear buds back to CARY.)*

MANDY: I liked the other song better.

CARY: But you like the band.

MANDY: Yeah, they're not bad!

CARY: So you'll come to the show?

MANDY: Maybe.

CARY: *(pleading)* Please, you guys. It's really important to support local music. Otherwise we're going to be forced to listen to Taylor Swift for the rest of our lives. And we have a great local music scene!

MANDY: Well . . .

CARY: Tickets are only six bucks.

CHIP: We'll be there.

MANDY: Mr. Big Spender here.

CARY: Great! You should check out their MySpace before the show. And you can get both CDs on iTunes—but you should probably buy them at Cave Nine. The band gets a bigger cut.

MANDY: What are you, their manager?

CARY: No. I just think that they're awesome. *(realizing)* I'm sorry. I'm going on and on about this show. You were in the middle of a conversation. What was it again?

CHIP: We were trying to figure out how to make disciples.

CARY: Oh. Did you figure it out?

CHIP: I think you just showed us.

*(The three friends exit together.)*

*(The End)*

# REVERB::DRIVE::The Mission of God in the World::lesson two

## PICTURE THIS •

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# REVERB::DRIVE::The Mission of God in the World::lesson two

## PICTURE THIS •

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# REVERB::DRIVE::The Mission of God in the World::lesson two

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# REVERB::DRIVE::The Mission of God in the World::lesson two

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

**biblical passage:** Matthew 28:16–20

**memory verse:** Matthew 28:18–20 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.”

## MAKING DISCIPLES

In the space provided, collect as many signatures and birthdays as possible.

Read Matthew 28:19–20. Then break down these verses into a list of things that Jesus told His disciples to do.

1.

2.

3.

4.

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## Master Teacher Key Study THE GREAT COMMISSION

*Use this outline and any of the corresponding activities to share the Biblical Truth with students.*

**Intro:** We have been commissioned by Jesus to spread the gospel.

**Description:** When Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He gave them a very clear mandate: Go and make disciples.

**Illustration:** If you can think back far enough, try to imagine the first time that your parents left you at home with one of your younger siblings (if you have one). Maybe your mom left you a list of instructions that ended with “and if you act bad, I’ll know.” Generally, the most important things that people have to say come out when they’re about to leave. They want to make sure that everything is in order before they go. We can learn a lot by studying Jesus’ last words to the group of people who were going to be His voice in the world.

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### 1. Jesus’ words are backed by authority (Matt. 28:16–18).

**Description:** Any limitations that Jesus had clothed Himself in when He took on human flesh were gone. He made it very clear to His disciples: He is the sovereign God of the universe, and He has all authority in Heaven and on earth. The disciples needed to hear this to prepare them for what was to come.

**Illustration:** In the 2006 movie *We are Marshall*, Coach Jack Leyngyel (played by Matthew McConaughey) had to be a great encourager in the wake of a tragic plane crash that killed most of Marshall University’s football team and coaching staff. Leyngyel was known for awesome pep talks before games. Great coaches will take their teams aside before a big game and give them a pep talk. They will try to be as inspiring as possible and put things into perspective for their team. In a way, Jesus was giving a great pep talk to His disciples and letting His team know that He had equipped and empowered them to take it all the way.

**Application:** When Jesus laid out for the disciples what He wanted them to do, He was making it clear that He had the authority to make everything He was about to say a reality. Everything Jesus asks of us, He has the authority to accomplish. We only have to trust Him.

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### 2. All believers are challenged to be disciple-makers throughout their lives (Matt. 28:19–20a).

**Description:** Jesus’ commission was simple: Go and make disciples by baptizing and teaching. The disciples had a definite mandate, a set audience, and a clear plan from the one whom they had seen do all of these things in their own lives. Jesus was basically asking them to continue in His footsteps.

**Illustration:** Because of some engine trouble, pilot Chesley B. “Sully” Sullenberger, was recently forced to land his airplane in New York’s Hudson River with 155 people aboard. The daring and heroic act made headlines across the globe. “Sully”, however, was simply doing what he had been trained to do. While he was training to be a pilot, his instructors put him through rigorous testing to make sure that he could handle a crisis situation such as this one. Thankfully, all that training paid off. When the rubber met the road (or, rather, when the plane hit the water), he was able to do the things that he had been shown.

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**Application:** God is preparing all of us to accomplish daring and heroic things for His glory and His Kingdom. The same challenge that Jesus threw down for His disciples is given to every believer today. We're being trained daily not to make good people or moral people or virtuous people, but to make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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**3.** Jesus is with us as we make disciples (Matt. 28:20b).

**Description:** Knowing how insecure and unsure the disciples would be, Jesus gave them one final comfort: I will be with you always. Immanuel, God-with-us, was not leaving His disciples alone to accomplish this commission. He would be with them always through His indwelling Holy Spirit.

**Illustration:** If you've seen the reality television show *The Biggest Loser*, you've likely been amazed at just how much weight people can lose when they're in the right environment with the right motivation and the right people to help them. One of the biggest ingredients in their recipe for success is someone who is constantly with them, training them, holding them accountable, and pushing them. There's no greater motivation than having someone come alongside to help you accomplish something.

**Application:** We're never alone. In our darkest times, in our most joyous times, in difficult decisions, in crowded school hallways, in the stockrooms at work, even in the darkness of our rooms at night, God is with us. He has asked much from us, but He has also promised to be at our side as we storm the castle and make disciples.

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**Conclusion:** We must be purposefully making disciples if we are going to be obedient to Jesus' commission.

**Description:** Disciple-making doesn't just happen. The people around us who are truly making disciples weren't just born with that ability. They're just being obedient to the command to follow Christ.

**Application:** A disciple-maker shows other people how to do it by leading them to do the things that they should be doing as part of the Kingdom of God.



# REVERB::DRIVE::The Mission of God in the World::lesson two

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

**biblical passage:** Matthew 28:16–20

**memory verse:** Matthew 28:18–20 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.”

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

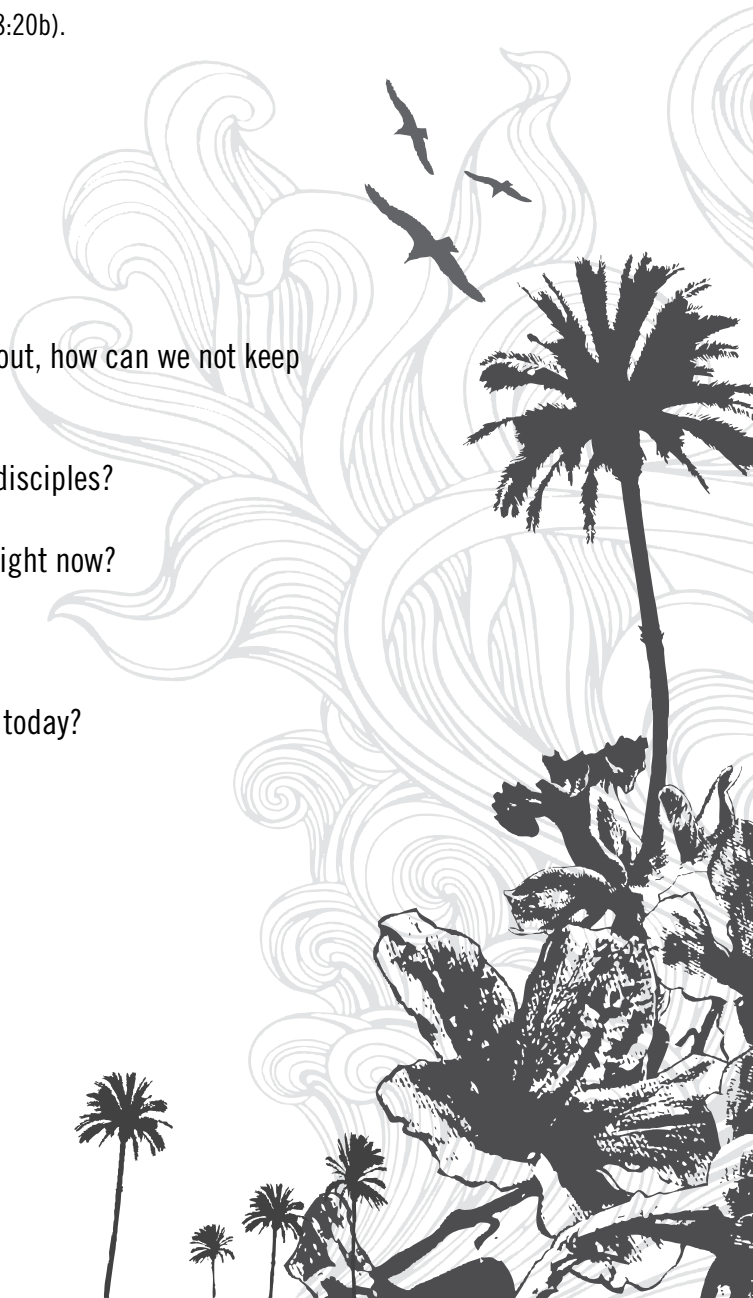
1. Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ are backed by \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 28:16–18).
2. All believers are \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ throughout their lives (Matt. 28:19–20a).
3. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ us as we make disciples (Matt. 28:20b).

### SMALL GROUP questions

1. If Christ is at work in our lives, transforming us from the inside out, how can we not keep from sharing that with others?
2. What’s the difference between merely evangelizing and making disciples?
3. What opportunities do you have as a student to make disciples right now?
4. What characteristics do disciple-makers have?
5. How will you commit to starting the process of making disciples today?

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## SECRET AGENT

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Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to live the moments of your days in ways that point others to who God is and what His plan is for the world.

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## GAME PLAN

*Read the following testimony to students.*

NAME: Trent Erwin

AGE: 17

PLACE: Pelham, Alabama

Do you know people who are making a difference right here and right now by going and making disciples on mission trips? Trent Erwin did just that.

When his youth minister mentioned a trip to Brazil, Trent thought, “Hey, this sounds like an exotic, fun, and exciting trip with great sites to see. I think I want to go just to see more of the world.” The more that Trent learned about the trip, however, the more he realized that it wasn’t all about what he wanted out of it, but rather it was about the glory that God would get out of it.

Trent realized that he needed an opportunity to venture out of his comfort zone and do some challenging things. Trent remembered reading about Barnabas in the Bible. Barnabas wasn’t some famous teacher. He was just an ordinary guy who went and did what God wanted. As with Barnabas, Trent realized that Jesus had called him to serve Him in his community, in the United States, and in other countries by making disciples.

While in Brazil, Trent was completely shocked at how a group of Americans and a group of Brazilians could come together to sing and preach in two different tongues—yet there was one God who received all the glory from the praise offered by both languages. Once, while an 8-year-old boy named Patrique sat with him, it came time for prayer. The little boy could feel God’s presence and was deeply compelled to call out to God. Trent was in complete awe of how God could use every circumstance to bring glory to Himself.

The mission trip changed Trent. “From now on, I will be aware of my surroundings,” Trent said. “I’ll listen for how God speaks and how He wants to use me. I won’t wait for tomorrow or two years or even ten years. I want to be ready right here and now!”

Trent gets it. God has called all of His people to be on mission with Him today by going and making disciples of all nations. Starting right here. Right now.