

TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

Jesus Gave the Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to His disciples over a 40 day period. At one point, He appeared to over 500 disciples. Then He appeared to James, His half-brother, and the rest of the apostles. (1 Cor. 15:5-7) During that time, Jesus taught them about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3) Some disciples wondered if Jesus was going to restore the kingdom of Israel. (Acts 1:6)

Jesus and the Father had a different plan for the disciples. Jesus directed the Eleven to go to a mountain, where He appeared to them again. When Jesus appeared, they worshiped Him, but some still doubted. (Matt. 28:17) Before we condemn the disciples who doubted, they had not yet received the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:49) Without the Holy Spirit, the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. (1 Cor. 1:18)

On the mountain, Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission. First, Jesus stated that all authority had been given to Him. Before the resurrection, Jesus had authority as God the Son. Through the resurrection, however, the Father gave Jesus far more than even Satan had promised. (Matt. 4:8-9) Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God subjected everything to His beloved Son. (See Heb. 2:5-9.)

Because of Jesus' authority, He commanded His disciples to go into the world and preach the gospel, the good news about Him. The Great Commission is not just for missionaries far from home. All believers are called to share the gospel with others, teach them to obey God's commands, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus finishes His commission with a profound promise: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

Talk to the kids you teach about the importance of living out the Great Commission. The good news about what Jesus has done to rescue us from our sins is too great to keep to ourselves. Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave the disciples a job to do. Jesus wants His followers to teach people everywhere about Jesus so they will trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.

YOUNGER KIDS BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

Session Title: Jesus Gave the Great Commission

Bible Passage: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3

Big Picture Question: How can we join in the Great Commission? We can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.

Key Passage: Matthew 28:19-20

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus prepared His disciples for a life of ministry. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us until He returns.

Small Group Time

Welcome time
Activity page (5 minutes)
Session starter (10 minutes)
Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Bible story review (10 minutes)
Activity choice (10 minutes)
Journal (5 minutes)
Prayer (5 minutes)

THE BIBLE STORY

Jesus Gave the Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3

After Jesus had been raised from the dead, He met with His disciples over a 40-day period. During that time, **Jesus told them even more about God’s kingdom. Then Jesus’ eleven disciples went to a mountain in Galilee.** Jesus had told them to go there. When the disciples saw Jesus, some of them worshiped Him. But some of the disciples still doubted.

Then **Jesus** went up to them and **said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”** Jesus is God the Son; He always had authority. But after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, God gave Him all authority in heaven and on earth. Jesus is the King over all creation, and He rules over God’s kingdom.

Jesus gave the disciples—and everyone who follows Him—a job to do. He said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel. Make disciples of people from every nation.” The word *disciple* means “follower.” Jesus wants His followers to tell people all over the world how to be rescued from sin and death by trusting in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Then those people who believe would become disciples of Jesus too.

Jesus also said, “Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” When believers are baptized, they show the world that they have turned away from sin and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. New disciples are cleansed from sin. The Father is God, the Son is Jesus, who saves us, and the Holy Spirit will come to the new disciples and give them the power to live a new life for God.

Jesus continued, “Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” People who have trusted in Jesus as their Savior have been forgiven of their sins. They don’t want to live the way they lived before. They want to live holy lives by obeying God’s Word.

Then Jesus said, “Remember this: I am always with you, until the very end of the age.” It would not always be easy for the disciples to tell the world about Jesus. People would hate them because of their message, and people would even try to stop them from telling others about Jesus. But they did not need to be afraid because Jesus promised to be with them. One of Jesus’ names is Immanuel: “God with us.” Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is always with us.

At the end of the age—once all the nations have heard the good news of God’s kingdom—Jesus will return. At the end of the age, believers will be reunited with Jesus forever!

Christ Connection: The good news about what Jesus has done to rescue us from our sins is too great to keep to ourselves. Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave the disciples a job to do. Jesus wants His followers to teach people everywhere about Jesus so they will trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.

SMALL GROUP OPENING

Session Title: Jesus Gave the Great Commission

Bible Passage: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3

Big Picture Question: How can we join in the Great Commission? We can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.

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Welcome time:

Arriving Activity: Partner drawing

- paper
- pencils
- simple sketch

Lead kids to form pairs. One partner should sit in a chair at the table, all facing the same direction. The other partner should stand behind his partner. Give each seated partner a sheet of paper and a pencil. Post a sketch where all the kids standing can see, but the children sitting cannot. The standing partner must instruct the sitting partner to draw the same sketch. After a couple minutes has passed, declare the sketch that is closest to the original the winner.

Say • Those of you who drew really needed your partners’ help. You would not have known what to draw if they had not been there to help you. In our Bible story today, Jesus gave His disciples a mission and promised He would always be with them as they completed it. Let’s find out more.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Go Into the World” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

Say • You thought of some great places where you can tell people about Jesus! Jesus wants us to tell others about Him.

Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: Jesus says go

Play a game of “Simon Says,” but instead of saying “Simon says ...” say “Jesus says go and ...” The leader stands in front of the others giving commands. When the leader says, “Jesus says go and ...” the other children must do the command. If the leader does not say “Jesus says go and...” the other children should not follow the command, or they will be out of the game. Continue as time allows. Allow children to take turns being the leader.

Say • Jesus gave His followers a command to go and do something in our Bible story today. Let’s discover what Jesus’ followers should do.

Option 2: Dominoes

- set of dominoes
- Internet access (optional)

Tip: If you plan to show kids domino tricks from the Internet, be aware of ads or other inappropriate online materials that may pop up.

Allow kids to play with dominoes. Lead kids to set up the dominoes so that they cause a chain reaction of falling dominoes by only touching one. Guide kids to work as a team to create the longest chain of dominoes. If you have extra time and Internet access, consider showing kids videos of amazing domino tricks.

Say • It is amazing that just one domino can have such an effect on so many others. The same thing is true of us when we share the gospel. When we share the gospel with someone and then they share the gospel with someone else, God’s kingdom grows and we move closer to accomplishing the Great Commission.

SMALL GROUP LEADER

Session Title: Jesus Gave the Great Commission

Bible Passage: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3

Big Picture Question: How can we join in the Great Commission? We can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.

Key Passage: Matthew 28:19-20

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus prepared His disciples for a life of ministry. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us until He returns.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- dry erase board and markers (optional)
- paper
- markers
- tape
- stopwatch (optional)

Make sure the key passage, Matthew 28:19-20, is visible for each child, either as the printed poster or written on a dry erase board. Read the verses together.

Say • Though Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples on the mountain long ago, the Great Commission is also for His disciples today. We are disciples of Jesus if we trust in Him to forgive our sin and make us righteous in God's sight. Our assignment is to make more disciples of Jesus.

Write the key passage on different sheets of paper, two or three words per page, and post them out of order around the room. Determine how to divide the passage based on the number of kids and skill level of your class. Invite all kids to sit on the floor. Explain to the class that you will choose a child and say "[Child's name], go!" She should stand up and touch the signs with the phrases of the passage in order as quickly as possible, and then sit back down. As she touches the signs, the kids sitting down should say the verse as each phrase is being touched. Repeat with additional kids as time allows. Consider using a stopwatch to determine who was the fastest at touching the signs.

Bible story review (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Visual Pack
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster
- key passage papers

Encourage the kids to find Matthew 28; Mark 16; and Acts 1 in their Bibles. Help them as needed.

Say • We are coming to the end of the Gospels as we have moved chronologically through the Bible. Who remembers the names of the books that make up the Gospels? (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*) Are the Gospels in the Old Testament or New Testament? (*New Testament*)

Use the small group visual pack to show kids where today's Bible story is on the timeline. Review the Bible story provided using the bolded text, or summarize the story in your own words. As you retell the Bible story, use the phrase signs from the key passage activity. Lead all the children to sit down together. Walk to each phrase sign as you reach that part of the Great Commission in the Bible story. As you do this, begin by taking one child with you to the first sign. When you move to the next sign, direct him to select two more children. At the next sign, invite those two kids to each select two more. Continue to "make disciples" until all kids are standing.

Say • Seeing our whole group standing is a picture of what can happen when we obey the Great Commission. As we tell people about Jesus and then they tell people about Jesus and then those people tell other people about Jesus, God's kingdom grows!

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

Say • Let's take another look at our big picture question and answer. ***How can we join in the Great Commission? We can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.*** We follow Jesus because someone first told us about Him. That person could tell us about Jesus because someone else obeyed the Great Commission. We are disciples of Jesus because God worked through the obedience of the first disciples long ago. As the first disciples obeyed Jesus to take the gospel to all people, the message of the gospel was passed down to us. Now it is our job to keep it going.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Prayer chain

- strips of paper
- markers
- stapler

Guide kids in thinking of people who need to hear the gospel. Lead them to think of people they know and even people they don't know who need to hear the truth about Jesus. Guide to them write the name of the person on a strip of paper. Kids who may not be able to write yet may tell you the name to write down. Make a paper chain out of all the strips by stapling together interlocking links. Display the prayer chain in your class.

Say • We are going to hang this prayer chain in our classroom. When we see it, we can remember to pray for people who are not yet followers of Jesus and ask God to give us opportunities to tell them the good news about Jesus. ***How can we join in the Great Commission? We can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.***

Option 2: How can I use this?

- large bag
- various items (baseball glove, pencil, toy, old cellphone, paper and pen, so forth)

Place different items in a bag. Allow children to select an item from the bag one at a time without looking. Brainstorm with the group how you could use the item to tell someone about Jesus. Examples of items include baseball glove, pencil, toy, phone, and so forth. Allow kids to have fun being creative. Emphasize the importance of telling those we love about Jesus.

Say • Sharing the gospel doesn't require any special tools. We can share the gospel anywhere and at anytime. The main thing is to keep our mind on Jesus so we will want to tell people about Him! ***How can we join in the Great Commission? We can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.***

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

- Journal Page, 1 per kid
- markers or crayons
- Bible Story Coloring Page

Distribute each child's journal page provided with this session. Instruct the kids to draw a picture of someone with whom they can pray for and share the gospel. Writers can write names of people with whom they can pray for and share the gospel.

Say •Would anyone like to answer our big picture question? ***How can we join in the Great Commission? We can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.***

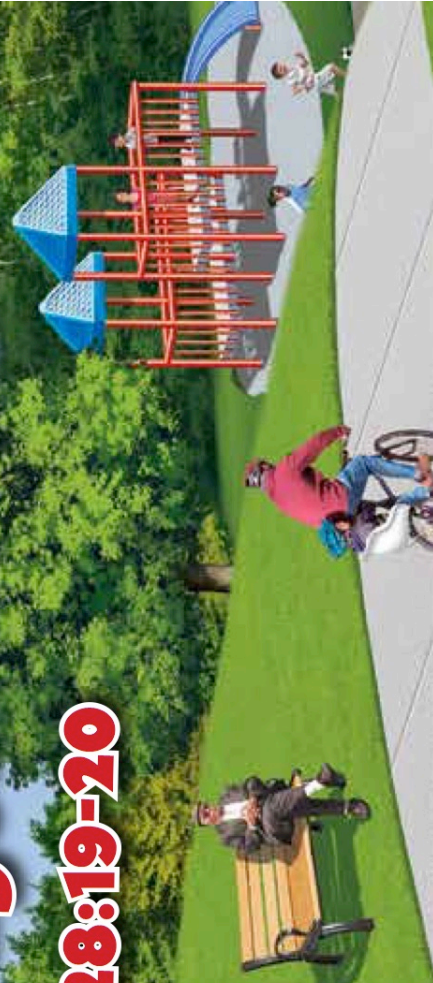
If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for the truth of the gospel and for sending people to share the truth with us. Pray for each child by name, asking God to create in the kids a passion to share the gospel where they are and around the world.

Dismiss to parents – Make sure to check security tags when dismissing children.



**“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 28:19-20



How can we join in the Great Commission?

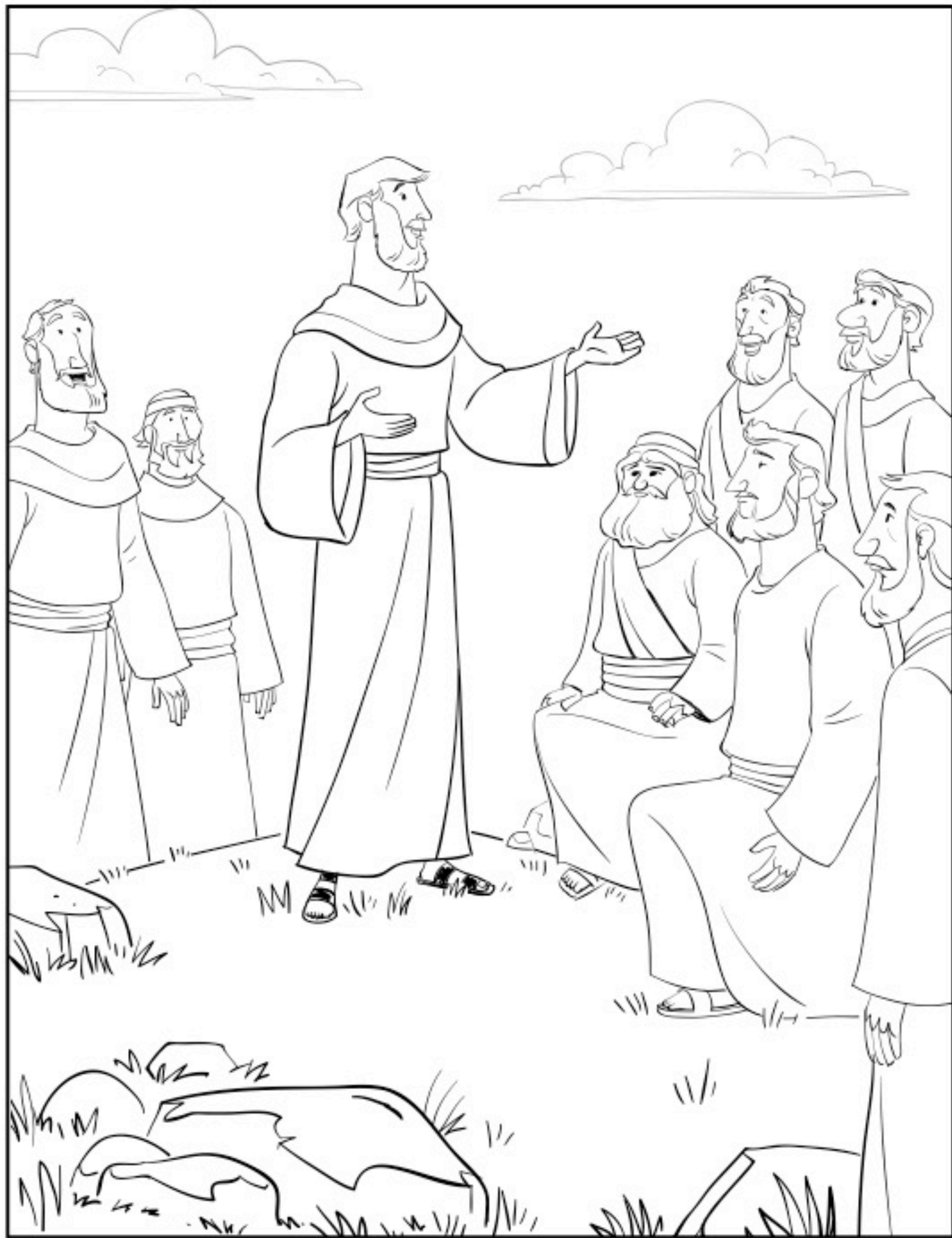
We can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.



Go Into the World

Instructions: Below are two scenes where you might find yourself. Draw yourself in the scene telling someone about Jesus. In the empty box, draw your own scene. Think of a place you normally go and someone you know who needs to hear the truth about Jesus.





ALLERGY ALERT



Today we will be tasting/
touching/sniffing:

**Please notify the leader
if your child should not
participate.**

Instructions: Print this poster. You may laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information. Display the poster where parents and kids can see it before class.

the **GOSPEL**

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos·pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*



WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13*

Jesus Prepared the Disciples

Make a list as a family of all the things you like to talk about with family or friends. Beside that list, make a list of the people you see often that you talk with or could talk with. Remind kids that Jesus asked His disciples to tell others about Him and help them become followers of Jesus. Read Matthew 28:16-20. Discuss how you might talk about Jesus with the people on your list.

Jesus Gave the Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:3

Preschool

Key Passage: Matthew 28:19-20

Big Picture Question: What job did Jesus give His friends? Jesus said to tell everyone about Him.

Christ Connection: Jesus told His friends that everywhere they went they were to make more followers of Him. Jesus' friends could do this because Jesus is in charge of everything, and He promised He would be with them. When we follow Jesus, He promises to always be with us too. Jesus' mission to His friends is our mission too. We are to make more followers of Jesus.

Kids

Key Passage: Matthew 28:19-20

Big Picture Question: How can we join in the Great Commission? We can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.

Christ Connection: The good news about what Jesus has done to rescue us from our sins is too great to keep to ourselves. Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave the disciples a job to do.

Jesus wants His followers to teach people everywhere about Jesus so they will trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.

