



## Jesus Gave the Great Commission

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 28:16-20

**Key Passage:** “ 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**

**Big Picture Question:** What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.

**Bottom Line:** I can love , follow and obey Jesus.

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

**LARGE GROUP:** Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways.

**Say This:** The disciples Jesus spoke to were not the only ones to receive a job. When we become followers of Jesus, we become His disciples too. Our mission is the same as the disciples’. Does anyone remember the big picture question and answer? *[Allow responses.]* Great job, that’s exactly right. ***What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.***

We have been studying about all that Jesus did after He rose from the dead. First, we learned that **Jesus appeared to His disciples** to show them He was alive. Poor Thomas was not with the other disciples when they saw Jesus, and he doubted his friends were telling the truth. **Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas** so that he would believe. Jesus wanted Thomas to believe He is alive, but Jesus said those of us who believe in Him without seeing Him are blessed. Then Jesus appeared again to Peter and some of the other disciples who thought they needed to go back to fishing. **Jesus forgave Peter and gave him a mission.** In today’s Bible story, Jesus met with His disciples on a mountain where He gave them the Great Commission.

### **Watch Video:**

For 40 days, Jesus proved that He really was alive by appearing to the disciples and many other people at different times.

One of those times, Jesus met with His disciples and reminded them that He has all authority both in heaven and on earth. He used His authority to give them a job to do. Jesus told the disciples to go everywhere in the world to tell people the good news about Jesus.

The good news about Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection—the gospel—is God’s message to the world. Jesus paid the price for our sin. When we believe in Him, God forgives us and gives us new life with Him that lasts forever.

Telling the world about Jesus would be difficult. Some people would hate them because of their message, and many would try to stop them from completing their mission. Thankfully, Jesus promised



to be with them; there was no reason to be afraid.

**Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission**, but it wasn't just for them. It is a command for all of us. Every person who believes in Jesus has a responsibility to share the gospel—the good news about Jesus—because everyone needs to hear the gospel! Whether you are called to travel to a faraway place or stay right in your own town, God wants all believers to share the gospel with people everywhere! That is a huge job, but we are not on our own. Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit to give us God's power.

***What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.***

#### **Christ connection**

Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin and rose again to defeat death. That news is too good not to share. Jesus wants His followers to teach people everywhere about Jesus so they will trust in Him as their Lord and Savior. Even people who already believe in Jesus need to hear the gospel to be reminded every day of the love Jesus showed for us. The gospel is the message that God loved us and sent Jesus to save us and also the message that God wants each of us to be a part of His mission to save people all over the world.

**Let's pray together and head out to small group.**

### **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

#### **1. Bible Story Review/Skills**

**What You Need:** Story Point Poster, Bibles, sentence strips

**What You Do:**

- Distribute Bibles and guide kids to find the Book of Matthew.
- Ask kids what division of the Bible the Book of Matthew is in. (*Gospels*)
- Challenge kids to name the five divisions of the New Testament. (*Gospels, New Testament History, Paul's Letters, General Letters, Prophecy*)

**What You Say**

**Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission.** Jesus calls all believers to this mission of making disciples. The word *disciple* means “learner” or “pupil.” The people Jesus called to follow Him during His earthly ministry are called disciples.

As believers, we can share the gospel with others and invite them to follow Jesus. Jesus wants people from every nation to know and love Him.

#### **2. Discussion Questions:**

- **How many disciples traveled to Galilee?** (*11 disciples, Matt. 28:16*)
- **Where in Galilee did the disciples go?** (*to the mountain, Matt. 28:16*)
- **What did the disciples do when they saw Jesus?** (*They worshiped Him, but some doubted; Matt.*



28:17)

- What did Jesus say He has in heaven and on earth? (*all authority, Matt. 28:18*)
- Jesus told His followers to make disciples of whom? (*all nations, Matt. 28:19*)
- Jesus told His followers to baptize in the name of whom? (*the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; Matt. 28:19*)
- Jesus said He is with His followers for how long? (*always, to the end of the age; Matt. 28:20*)

Now guide kids to discuss these questions:

- Why do you think Jesus commanded us to tell others about Him?
- What does it mean to make disciples?
- Think about the unique place God has put you—in your specific city, school, or neighborhood. Who do you see every day that you could tell about Jesus?

### 3. Memory Verse Activity

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Allow any kids who have memorized Matthew 28:19-20 to recite the passage from memory.
- Allow kids to say the memory verse in different types of voices. (Examples: loudly, quietly, like a robot, like an opera singer, and so forth)

**What You Say:** “Our memory verse comes from today’s Bible story. Raise your hand if you can tell me our memory verse from memory.

- Who said these words? (Jesus)
- What do we call this command? (The Great Commission)
- Jesus said these words to His disciples, but this command is for all believers. Jesus wants everyone who believes in Jesus for life to tell others about Him.
- How can we join in the Great Commission?
- We can share the gospel, the good news about Jesus.

### Pray and Dismiss

**What You Need:** Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

**What You Do:**

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
  - What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
  - What does the story teach me about myself?
  - Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
  - Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
  - How does this story help me to live on mission better?
- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

**What You Say:** Pray that the gospel would be received.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.