



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 skills

What You Need: Bibles, Story Point Poster,

What You Do:

- Help kids find Matthew 28:16-20 in their Bibles.
- Remind kids that Matthew was one of Jesus' disciples, so he was with Jesus when this Bible story took place.
- Invite all the children to stand.
- Ask one student a question.
- If he answers correctly, move on to the next child and ask another question.
- If the first student answers incorrectly, he must sit down and the next child has an opportunity to answer the question.
- Continue asking questions until only a few children are left standing.

What You Say After Jesus died on the cross and rose again on the third day, God glorified Him and made Him the ruler over all things. Jesus, our King forever, commanded His followers to go into the whole world to tell everyone what He had done for them. We cannot earn God's love, but He gave it to us freely through Jesus. We can be sons and daughters of God because Jesus made the way to be forgiven and receive new life from God!

Jesus wants everyone to hear about Him and have the chance to believe in Him and be saved. That's why **Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission**—and it still applies to us today!



2. Discussion Questions:

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- **Where did the disciples meet with Jesus?** (*a mountain, Matt. 28:16*)
- **Some worshiped when they saw Jesus, but what did others do?** (*doubted, Matt. 28:17*)
- **What had been given to Jesus in heaven and on earth?** (*all authority, Matt. 28:18*)
- **What was the job Jesus had for His disciples?** (*Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything He has commanded them; Matt. 28:19*)
- **What was the last thing Jesus told them?** (*He would be with them, Matt. 28:20*)
- **Who gives us the power to share the Gospel?** (*the Holy Spirit*)
- **What is our mission? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.**

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, paper, markers, tape, stopwatch(optional)

What You Do:

- Write the memory verse 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 verses based on the number of kids and skill level of your group.
- Invite all kids to sit on the floor.
- Explain to the class that you will choose a kid and say “[Kid’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.

What You 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 if we believe in Jesus for life. Our assignment is to make more disciples of Jesus.”

Pray and Dismiss

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

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages one to each kid.
- Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:
 - What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
 - What does this story teach me about myself?
 - Whom can I tell about this story?
- If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.
- Pray for your group.

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