

May 26, 2024

Bible Passage: Matthew 28:16–20
(Great Commission)



Jesus Is the Good News

Remember Verse

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! Isaiah 30:18

LESSON OVERVIEW

CONNECT//
10 minutes



News Interviews

SUPPLIES

- Interview Questions*
- Pens

GATHER//
30 minutes



Remember Verse

Game: Line It Up

SUPPLIES

- None

Storytelling

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Investigate Questions*
- Bibles
- Blocks or small boxes

(enough to build a tower)

- Blankets (3–5)
- Pillows (3–5)
- Construction paper (4 sheets)
- Marker
- Tape

Discussion Questions

RESPOND//
15 minutes



Prayer Pennants

SUPPLIES

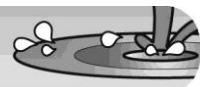
- Prayer Pennant cutout*
- Card stock (1 sheet per child, white)
- Scissors (1 pair per child)
- Markers
- String (20')
- Clothespins (2 per child)

(Optional) Make Disciples
Tag

SUPPLIES

- None

BLESS//
5 minutes



SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards*
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 13*
- Recipe cards and Parent invitations*
- Bible

Further Resources

To help you plan and lead:

**Customizable copy of Lesson 12
2018–19 Scope and Sequence
TruStory How It Works
Small Group Enhancement**

At Home Weekly: Lesson 12

The weekly for the next lesson—to be sent home for preteaching by parents—is found in BLESS.

LEADER PREP

Each week you'll find a list of resources along with encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.

Inspire *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

A few months ago, I found out I was pregnant. This event was a bit of a surprise because it happened sooner than my husband and I expected. We were sitting together on our bed when we picked up the pregnancy test and saw the result together. Our response? Laughter. Not Sarah's laughter (Genesis 18:10–12), but laughter because we were surprised and stunned and a little overwhelmed. We laughed because there was nothing else to do.

This good news, though shocking at first, changed our lives. It began to affect all of our thoughts and conversations and interactions. This is news we began to share with those who were closest to us and eventually with everyone around us. This good news that lives inside of my belly cannot be hidden—it is obvious to all who look at me.

This, I think, is how the good news of the gospel should affect us. Jesus came to do what?! He paid my price? He offers me new life and a restored relationship with God? How can it be true?!

We should laugh in shock and then rejoice with overflowing praise. This good news about Jesus should be shared—with those closest to us and with all who will listen. This good news should not—cannot—be hidden. It should pop out of us and be so visible in us that people ask us about it. Jesus changes us completely. He has rescued us. Good news, indeed.

Denise Snyder
Crossroads Church

Equip *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

The core message of the New Testament is the important truth that Jesus is the Good News. He has made the way for us to be reconciled back to God. That is the message we all have been commissioned to share with the world through the words of Matthew 28:19–20. In fact, this mandate to spread the good news is the last thing Jesus told His disciples before He ascended back to heaven.

This command is called the Great Commission. But what is this command really saying? Every so often, the English translation doesn't quite carry the emphasis of the original Greek. This is one of those times. Much has been made, especially in missions literature, of the imperative command "go" at the beginning of verse 19. "Go into all the world" is the focus. So we are told from the pulpit to "go" spread the gospel. But in the Greek, the emphasis is a little different.

What is surprising is that "go" is not even an active verb in the Greek, let alone an imperative command. It is a participle, which helps us understand the actual verb a little better. The only active (imperative) verb in the sentence is in the phrase "make disciples." The terms "go," "baptizing them," and "teaching them" are all participles that explain the action of the verb. The tense of the participle "go" assumes action, and the next two participles describe the manner in which the verb is to be carried out.

So, verse 19 could be over-translated, "(Since you are) going (and as you go), *make disciples* ... baptizing them and teaching them." What does it mean to share with the world that Jesus is the Good News? It means to "make disciples." We are to tell people about Jesus, baptize them, and teach them to observe all that Jesus commanded.

Support *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

The fact that Jesus has reconciled us to God, the truth that God invites us to be a part of His family, the amazing grace that shows us that God has been working since Genesis to restore the good that was there in the beginning—it's the greatest news the world has ever heard. Instead of making us furrow our brows and recite gloomy verses, it should make our hearts leap with joy and our bodies dance in praise! Jesus is the Good News! He is the answer we've been

looking for. God has been victorious, and He invites us into His kingdom!

What emotions do you experience when you really stop to think about the good news that Jesus proclaims? Take a moment to read Luke 4:18–19. This is the good news Jesus came to proclaim—spiritual and physical freedom and salvation. The year of the Lord’s favor! This week share this good news with someone who needs to hear it. And pray for your kids, that they would understand this good news, accept it, and share it with others.

CONNECT//10 minutes



Children develop relationships with their leaders and one another through simple activities and conversation starters.

News Interviews

Children will use a series of questions to “interview” their classmates.

SUPPLIES

- Interview Questions (see Resources)
- Pens

PREPARE AHEAD

Print a copy of the Interview Questions for each child.

RELATE

CONNECT QUESTION: Welcome and greet children. Open your time by asking this question: **What’s the best news you’ve ever received?**

It’s great to hear all your stories; I love hearing about good news! Now we’re going to get to know one another better by breaking into pairs and interviewing each other. Pass out the Interview Questions and pens and give each pair a few minutes to interview each other and fill out their papers. When they finish, invite kids to share with the rest of the class what they learned about their partners. Optional: Save the papers as a way to get to know your children better.

Developmentally Speaking

Children in this age group are becoming less egocentric and are able to see the world through the eyes of their peers. By interviewing one another, the kids can see how others view the world.

GATHER//30 minutes



Children experience and learn more about God through prayer, storytelling from The Big God Story, an investigation into God’s Word, and creative ways to memorize Scripture.

Remember Verse

Each week children will spend time memorizing a portion of Scripture together. The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that’s highlighted in today’s portion of The Big God Story.

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! Isaiah 30:18

Game: Line It Up

SUPPLIES

- None

RELATE

Review the Remember Verse with the group a few times. Then have the children form a line. The child at the front of the line will say the first word of the verse and the child behind him will say the next. This will continue down the line until the entire verse has been said. If a child misses a word from the verse, the group must start again from the beginning of the line.

Storytelling

Bible Passage: Matthew 28:16–20

Storytelling Technique: Props and Pantomime

Jesus Is the Good News

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Investigate Questions (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Blocks or small boxes (enough to build a tower)
- Blankets (3–5)
- Pillows (3–5)
- Construction paper (4 sheets)
- Marker
- Tape

PREPARE AHEAD

Use the marker to draw a large arrow on each sheet of construction paper.

SET UP

Set the blocks in one area of the room. Put the blankets and pillows in another area of the room.

RELATE

All throughout The Big God Story we've been seeing how God has been at work to restore our relationship with Him. Why was our relationship with God broken? Invite responses. **That's right! We've all chosen to disobey God and sin against Him. This separates us from God. But God promised to send the way for us to come back to Him. What was that way?** Pause for responses. **Yes, Jesus! God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins! Only Jesus could fix our relationship with God and invite us to be saved through Him. What good news—Jesus is the Good News! Let's take a moment to stop and thank God for sending Jesus as the Good News.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Invite children to turn to Matthew 28 in their Bibles. **After Jesus died on the cross for our sins, God raised Jesus from the dead three days later! Jesus showed that He is God by being raised to life. Then He began appearing to people so that they knew He had risen. What good news!**

Jesus' disciples were in Jerusalem, where they had been when Jesus died. Invite kids to come to the pile of blocks and make a tower or a few small buildings to represent Jerusalem. **But during the time Jesus taught people about God and healed them, Jesus and His disciples hadn't spent a lot of time in Jerusalem. Instead, He and His disciples had spent a lot of time in the area of Galilee.** Read Matthew 28:16 aloud as kids follow along. **Galilee had lots of small towns and lots of people whom Jesus talked to about God's kingdom. So, the disciples went back to Galilee, to the mountain Jesus had told them to go to.** Lead kids to the blankets and pillows and encourage them to pile them up as high as they can to create a mountain. Then invite children to sit around the base of the mountain.

Jesus came to the mountain and met the disciples. What would you think if someone you knew was dead showed up in front of you? Invite kids to respond. **Great thoughts! The disciples felt that way too.** Read v. 17 aloud. **Some of them worshipped Jesus.** Have kids show you what it might have looked like when the disciples worshipped Jesus. **But others could barely believe it—Jesus had been dead and now was alive! Those disciples doubted.** Invite kids to show you what their doubtful faces might have looked like.

Jesus had taught the disciples a lot about God and His kingdom. Jesus knew that it was almost time for Him to go back to heaven, and the disciples had a big job ahead of them. Jesus had one last thing He wanted to teach them. Read v. 18. **What does *authority* mean?** Invite answers. **Great thoughts. Having authority means you have power or control. Jesus has all authority because He is God. He knows all things, and He is the Good News!**

Read v. 19 aloud as kids follow along. **Jesus told His disciples to go make more disciples who would follow Him. He wanted them to go to every country so that everyone would know about Him.** Give four different children an arrow. Invite them to tape them to the wall—one pointing up, one pointing right, one pointing left, and one pointing down. **Jesus wanted His disciples to go everywhere—north, south, east, and west—to share that He is the Good News. Jesus wants all people to know that He can forgive their sins and fix their relationship with God. Jesus told His disciples to baptize people in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and to show them how to be His disciples.**

Read v. 20. **Part of being a disciple of Jesus is obeying Him. When we accept Jesus' gift of salvation, we believe He is the only One who can save us from our sins—He is the Good News! And we learn to walk in His way because it's the very best way to live. When we obey Jesus' commands, we're following Him and being His disciples.** Invite one child to stand up as the leader. Have the rest of the kids follow him around the room as they walk exactly as he walks and do exactly what he does until he sits down. **That's what a disciple looks like! A disciple is someone who follows the leader. When we're disciples of Jesus, He is our leader, and we walk in His way and obey what He has told us in the Bible. Jesus didn't ask us to do this on our own. He says that He will be with us forever. Jesus sends us His Holy Spirit to help us follow Him. We can always ask the Holy Spirit to help us obey Jesus, and we know that God forgives us when we sin.**

Jesus is the Good News! He came to bring us salvation, and He sends us to go share this good news with others. When we accept Jesus' gift of salvation, we can share it with anyone we know who needs to hear it. God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us and invite us to know Him. Jesus is Good News! Share a time when you told someone the good news about Jesus.

Discussion Questions

- **How many disciples went to Galilee?** Matthew 28:16
- **What did the disciples do when they saw Jesus?** Matthew 28:17
- **What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?** Matthew 28:19–20
- **Why is it important to share the good news about Jesus?**

RESPOND//15 minutes



Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond to God through creative activities and games.

Prayer Pennants

Children will consider how God is calling them to share that Jesus is the Good News in their homes, schools, neighborhoods, and the world.

SUPPLIES

- Prayer Pennant cutout (see Resources)
- Card stock (1 sheet per child, white)
- Scissors (1 pair per child)
- Markers
- String (20')
- Clothespins (2 per child)

PREPARE AHEAD

Print a Prayer Pennant cutout onto card stock for each child. Hang the string along the wall at a height the kids can reach.

RELATE

Jesus is in charge of all things, and He told His disciples to go! He wants the whole world to know that He's the only One able to give us eternal life because He died and rose again.

Who shared the good news of Jesus with you? Invite responses. **How can you share the good news of Jesus with others?** Pause for answers. **God has given each of us special gifts and abilities. We can tell others about Him in our own different ways according to these gifts.** Invite children to ponder how they might be able to share the good news of Jesus in their homes, schools, neighborhoods, and even their world. Then pass out the pennants and invite kids to draw pictures or write words on their pennants to symbolize how they feel God may be asking them to share the good news. Or they can simply write words of praise to God to thank Him for sending Jesus as the Good News. When the children finish, they can cut out their pennants and attach them to the string using the clothespins.

(Optional) Make Disciples Tag

Play a game of tag with your kids in which the number of taggers will multiply when the kids are tagged.

SUPPLIES

- None

RELATE

Jesus commanded His followers to go and make disciples throughout the world. The disciples did just that, and the number of those who followed Jesus multiplied! Today we're going to play a game of tag in which the number of taggers will multiply as soon as they're tagged! To begin, choose one child to be "It." He will chase the other kids around the classroom. When he tags someone, that child will have to sit down in that spot. She will become a tagger, and she can use her arms and legs to try to tag other children (while staying seated). If she tags another child, he will become another tagger and sit down and do the same. The game ends once all of the kids have been tagged. After the game, ask: **Why do you think Jesus shared the Great Commission with His followers? Why is it important to share the good news with others? What are some ways you can share the good news with others?**

BLESS// 5 minutes



Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 13 (see Resources)
- Recipe cards and Parent invitations (see Resources)
- Bible

RELATE

Invite your class to stand together as you read them the blessing from John 3:16:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Then go to each child and bless her individually by saying: **For God so loved** (child's name) **that He gave His Son, Jesus. Jesus is the Good News.**

Finally, end with a blessing over the entire group.

May you celebrate that Jesus is the Good News, and may you share His love with others.

Send home Remember Verse cards, the At Home Weekly, and the Recipe cards and Parent invitations with your kids.