

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



True or False

SUPPLIES

- Index cards (1 per child)
- Pens

GATHER//
30 minutes



Remember Verse

Game: Line It Up

SUPPLIES

- None

Storytelling

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Investigate Questions*
- Bibles
- Construction paper (8 sheets)
- Marker

- Tape

Discussion Questions

RESPOND//
15 minutes



Good News

SUPPLIES

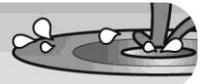
- Good News Headlines template*
- Pens

(Optional) Spread the Good News

SUPPLIES

- Masking or painter's tape
- Flying discs (3–4)
- Balls (5–10)
- Paper (10 sheets)
- Miscellaneous items (10–15; stuffed animals, shoes, clothing, etc.)
- Stopwatch or timer

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.

True or False

In this CONNECT activity, each kid will share two truths and one false fact for the classmates to guess what’s not true.

SUPPLIES

- Index cards (1 per child)
- Pens

RELATE

CONNECT QUESTION: Welcome and greet students. 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 do an activity during which we’ll tell stories about ourselves—two true stories and one that’s not true. Then the rest of the group will try to figure out which stories are true and which story isn’t. To begin, give a pen and an index card to each student and invite her to write down two things about herself that are true and one thing that is untrue. Then, have the kids take turns reading their statements to the rest of the class without sharing which ones are true or false. The rest of the group will get to vote on which statement they think is false. Give each student an opportunity to share.

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: Signs and Actions
Jesus Is the Good News

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Investigate Questions (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Construction paper (8 sheets)
- Marker
- Tape

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?** Invite answers. **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!**

Ask a volunteer to write "Go" on a sheet of construction paper and tape it to the wall. Have the kids brainstorm an action they can do for "Go" and have everyone practice. **Jesus' disciples were in Jerusalem, where they had been when Jesus died. 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.** Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 28:16 aloud as everyone follows 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.** Ask a volunteer to write "Make" on a sheet of construction paper and tape it to the wall next to "Go." The kids should then come up with an action for "Make" and practice it.

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.** Invite someone to read v. 17 aloud. **Some of them worshipped Jesus. But others could barely believe it—Jesus had been dead and now was alive! Those disciples doubted.** Ask a volunteer to write "Disciples" on a sheet of paper and tape it to the wall next to "Make." Invite kids to create an action for "Disciples."

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. Have someone read v. 18 aloud. **What does *authority* mean?** Invite responses. **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!** Ask a volunteer to write "All Nations" on a sheet of paper and tape it to the wall. Have kids create an action for "All Nations."

Ask a volunteer to read v.19 aloud. **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. Jesus wanted His disciples to go everywhere—north, south, east, and west—to share that He is the Good News.** Ask a child to write "Baptize" on a sheet of paper and tape it to the wall. Have kids create an action for "Baptize." **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.** Have a volunteer write "Father, Son, Holy Spirit" on a paper and tape it to the wall. Have kids come up with actions for "Father, Son, Holy Spirit."

Ask a volunteer to read v. 20 aloud. **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.** Have a volunteer write "Obey" on a paper and tape it to the wall. Then invite kids to create an action for "Obey." **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.** Have a volunteer write "With Us" on a paper and tape it to the wall. Kids should come up with an action for "With Us." **We can always ask the Holy Spirit to help us obey Jesus, and we know that God forgives us when we sin.**

Now read Matthew 28:19–20 aloud slowly as the kids to perform all of their actions together. You can read it a couple

of times or ask the kids to read it on their own until they know it. **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 28:1
- **What has been given to Jesus?** Matthew 28:18
- **What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?** Matthew 28:19–20
- **What would you have done or said if you had been there that day?**
- **Why is it important to share the good news of Jesus?**

RESPOND//15 minutes



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

Good News

Each student will have the opportunity to write her story of how the good news of Jesus has changed her life.

SUPPLIES

- Good News Headlines template (see Resources)
- Pens

PREPARE AHEAD

Print a Good News Headlines template for each student.

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.** Give a Good News Headlines template to each child and invite him to write his story of how the good news of Jesus has changed his life. Encourage the kids to be creative with their responses. They could tell their story as a firsthand witness account of encountering Jesus or as an editorial about good news and how Jesus is the best news of all. When the kids finish, invite them to share their stories with the rest of the group.

Developmentally Speaking

Children in this age group are very talkative and like to express themselves. This response time allows them to verbalize with others how God has worked in their lives. This will ultimately help them stretch their faith muscles and gain confidence in sharing their story with those outside the church.

(Optional) Spread the Good News

In this game, kids try to spread as many items as possible onto an opposing team's side.

SUPPLIES

- Masking or painter's tape
- Flying discs (3–4)
- Balls (5–10)
- Paper (10 sheets)
- Miscellaneous items (10–15; stuffed animals, shoes, clothing, etc.)
- Stopwatch or timer

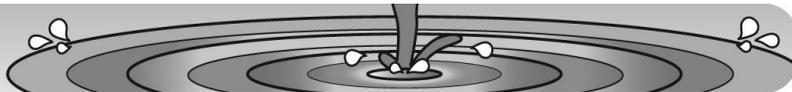
SET UP

Place a masking tape line down the center of the classroom. Place the items on the line.

RELATE

Jesus told His disciples to spread the good news about His salvation all over the world. Today we'll play a game of trying to spread as many items as we can onto the other team's side. To begin, divide your class into two teams, and have each team stand on one side of the masking tape line. Set a timer for two minutes. During that time, have kids throw or kick items from their side to the other side. After two minutes, the team with the fewest items on its side wins the game. After the game, spend some time discussing: **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.