

May 19, 2019

Morning Overview

Lesson: *The Great Commission*

Lesson Objective:

In our lesson today, we bring the earthly ministry of Christ to a close. Today we want the children to hear and understand that Jesus commanded the disciples to go throughout the world, sharing the Good News, baptizing in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching everyone to obey what Jesus taught. This is not possible by our own human ability; in fact, it would fail, so the Holy Spirit is sent to empower Christ's disciples to share the Good News and to be with them as they go everywhere as witnesses to Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- Jesus instructs His disciples to meet Him in Galilee. This will be the final time Jesus meets with His disciples before He leaves the earth.
- Jesus gives some very specific instructions to His disciples and a few promises too.
- Jesus commands His disciples to go throughout the world telling everyone the Good News, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that Jesus had commanded the disciples.
- Jesus promised that His disciples would not be alone and would have help. Help would come from the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:45-49; John 20:21-23

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Pages 331-332; Gospel Story Bible, Pages 240-241

Scripture Memory for May: Acts 13:32 (ESV)

We tell the good news: (*put both hands close to your mouth ... move hands outward away from mouth*)

What God (*point to heaven*)

promised our ancestors, (*put one open palm of your hand on top of other (also open) and then bring them to your heart ... like "cross my heart ..."*)

He has fulfilled for us... (*make a fist and pound it against an open palm ... like a judge banging a gavel*)

by raising up (*put both hands below your waist ... then raise them up*)

Jesus (*sign language motion for Jesus ... put middle finger from one hand into palm of other and alternate back and forth*)

Craft: Great Commission

Supplies: Cardstock footprints, crayons/markers

Instructions: 1. Have children draw a picture of themselves on right footprint.
2. Color Jesus and disciples on the right footprint.



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, if you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? In our story today, Jesus commands His disciples to go to all the places you just named! But they had a very important job to do in those places. Let's find out from our story what the disciples very important job was...

Forty Days and Five Hundred People

Many people had seen Jesus after He had risen from the dead. They touched his scars, poked him, saw Him eat food, and even walked and talked with Him. There was no question in anyone's mind that Jesus was really alive! Jesus did all of this for forty (40) days after He rose from the dead. During this time after Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to more than five hundred people (1 Corinthians 15:6)! But God's plan was not for Jesus to stay here on earth. Before Jesus would leave, he had some important commands and promises to give to His disciples.

The Great Commission

Jesus commanded his eleven disciples to meet him in Galilee. The disciples came to a mountain where they saw Jesus and there they worshipped Him. Some of the disciples did not believe that it was really Jesus though. But Jesus came near to them, then they really believed it was Him. Jesus gathered His disciples together and said very, very important things.

"All power in heaven and on earth is given to me." Jesus had received all power from His Father in Heaven, and now He was telling His disciples where to go and what to do. What kind of power? It was the power to send His disciples out and that the Good News they would tell others would be heard and believed.

What was the Good News? Jesus told the disciples, "Tell the Good News to everyone. It is written that the Christ would be killed and rise from death on the third day. You saw these things happen—you are witnesses. You must tell people to change their hearts and lives. If they do this, their sins will be forgiven. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you." Other people in the world had never heard of Jesus; they did not hear about His crucifixion or His resurrection. They did not have a relationship with God at all! Jesus wanted people to hear this Good News!

But where would they go to tell the Good News?

Jesus said to the disciples: "Go everywhere in the world and make followers of all people!" Jesus wanted everyone to hear the Good News. However, Jesus wanted the disciples to start telling people in Jerusalem first. And the disciples could not leave Jerusalem until a Special Helper come. The Special Helper would be the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would come after Jesus went away. Jesus had told them that it was good for them if He went away because then the Holy Spirit would come and live inside of His followers. Jesus had promised that the Holy Spirit would never leave God's people, but the Holy Spirit would always be with them.

Not only would the disciples tell everyone the Good News, but Jesus commanded the disciples to baptize everyone in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Some of the last words we have from Jesus to His disciples were, "You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world." As the disciples go out into the world telling everyone about Jesus, Jesus wanted them to know they would never be alone. This is a great promise and comfort as we go out and tell others about Jesus!

Questions for Review

Have children answer “yes” or “no.”

- Jesus stayed on the earth 40 days after He rose from the dead. (Yes)
- Over 500 people saw Jesus after He rose from the dead. (Yes)
- Jesus commanded His disciples to stay in Bethlehem. (No, Jerusalem)
- Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit once He left. (Yes)
- Jesus told His disciples to go just to their neighborhoods once they received the Holy Spirit. (No. “Go everywhere in the world and make followers of all people.”)
- Jesus commanded the disciples to baptize everyone in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Yes)
- Jesus promised to be with His disciples for 10 years. (No. Jesus would be with them always.)