

# THE GREAT COMMISSION



# THE GREAT COMMISSION

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Mark 16:15-17,19-20; Acts 2:43-47(ICB)

## BIG IDEA

I can go and make disciples for Jesus!

## FOCUS VERSE

“So go and make followers of all people in the world.” Matthew 28:19 (ICB)

## LESSON MATERIALS

| Red Paper Circle and Green Paper Circle (optional) | *Globe* Activity Page | *Feet* Activity Page | Crayons | Hole Punch | Glue Stick | 6” Pieces of Yarn | Scissors |

## GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- If you could learn any language in the world, which one would you choose?
- Do you have any small jobs or chores to do at home or school? What are they?

## WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Worship is not limited to praising God during church. We can also worship God and show Him gratitude by obeying what He asks us to do!

## PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children for prayer. Ask a volunteer to pray for class.



TAKE A MOMENT TO REMIND THE CHILDREN THAT PRAYER IS TALKING AND LISTENING TO GOD. SAY, “PRAYER IS NOT ONLY SPEAKING TO GOD. IT’S ALSO TAKING TIME TO HEAR WHAT HE WANTS TO SAY. JUST LIKE WE ENJOY TALKING TO OUR FRIENDS, GOD LOVES TO TALK TO US!”

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** “God, we are so grateful that You love us and that You made a way for us to live in heaven with You forever. Help us listen to You and help us show Your love to our friends and family. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

## REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

**BACKGROUND:** Say, “Together in our class we have learned about the Holy Spirit and that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us do amazing things. Do you guys remember some things the Holy Spirit helps us do? [Wait for responses.] Today we are going to talk about an important command Jesus left for each of us

to complete with the help of the Holy Spirit! Let's carefully listen to what this important job is! We call this big task *THE GREAT COMMISSION*. Commission is another word for command or duty." There is no Puzzle Piece this week.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Let's play a game before reading today's story!"

## ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Optional: Red Paper Circle and Green Paper Circle (1 per class) |

Say, "Today, we are going to listen and obey two commands as we play *Red Light, Green Light!* Let's see who will listen well and win the race!"

**GAME GOAL:** To follow commands and be the first to cross the finish line.

### HOW TO PLAY:

- Let the children create a horizontal line on one side of the classroom.
- The teacher will stand at the "finish line" and give only two commands throughout the game: "Green Light/Go!" and Red Light/Stop!"
- When the teacher says, "Green Light/Go!" all students will walk as fast as they can towards the teacher. When the teacher says, "Red Light/Stop!" everyone must freeze in place. Anyone who moves after this command will be out of the game.
- The student who reaches the finish line first, obeying all the commands along the way, wins!
- Play multiple rounds as time permits.



THE TEACHER CAN HOLD UP THE RED AND GREEN CIRCLES AS A VISUAL FOR EACH COMMAND.

**CHALLENGE:** If it's a pretty day, take the kids outside to play *Red Light, Green Light*.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job obeying my commands! Now, let's read a story about the command that Jesus left for each of us to follow – *The Great Commission!*"

## LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "The story we will be reading today is about the command Jesus gave His disciples before He went to heaven. The Great Commission was not just for the disciples who followed Jesus in the New Testament; it is for every disciple of Jesus, including us! So, let's listen to the story carefully to learn what the Great Commission is and how we can obey this important command!" Read Mark 16:15-16,19-20 (ICB).



WHILE YOU ARE READING THE PASSAGE, PAUSE TO DISCUSS WHAT "THE WORLD" MEANS. IF YOU HAVE A GLOBE OR PHOTO OF THE WORLD, POINT OUT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. ASK THE STUDENTS WHAT LANGUAGES THEY HAVE HEARD BESIDES THE ONE(S) THEY SPEAK.

<sup>15</sup> Jesus said to the followers, “Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone. <sup>16</sup> Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But he who does not believe will be judged guilty.

<sup>19</sup> After the Lord Jesus said these things to the followers, he was carried up into heaven. There, Jesus sat at the right side of God. <sup>20</sup> The followers went everywhere in the world and told the Good News to people. And the Lord helped them. The Lord proved that the Good News they told was true by giving them power to work miracles.

Read Acts 2:43-47 (ICB).

<sup>43</sup> The apostles were doing many miracles and signs. And everyone felt great respect for God. <sup>44</sup> All the believers stayed together. They shared everything. <sup>45</sup> They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those people who needed it. <sup>46</sup> The believers met together in the Temple every day. They all had the same purpose. They broke bread in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. <sup>47</sup> They praised God, and all the people liked them. More and more people were being saved every day; the Lord was adding those people to the group of believers.

Say, “This is an amazing story! Jesus’ followers obeyed *The Great Commission* by sharing the Good News about Jesus in their hometown, in nearby cities, and all over the world. Many people heard the Good News and became disciples of Jesus too! Just like the disciples of Jesus in today’s story, **we can go and make disciples for Jesus!**”

Ask, “What is the Good News about Jesus? [Wait for responses.] The Good News of Jesus is that He died on the Cross and came back to life again so that our sins can be forgiven and we can live forever with Him [John 3:16]! Jesus wanted His followers to tell the whole world that Good News. Jesus wants everyone to know what He did for them on the Cross so they could receive His love and forgiveness and live a new way as His disciples.

“After people believed in Jesus and became His disciples, they joyfully shared everything they had with each other [Acts 2]! You see, being a disciple of Jesus is more than just telling others about Him. It also means living in a way that shows others Jesus’ love. Jesus told His followers that the world would see that they were His disciples by the way they loved each other [John 13:35]. As followers of Jesus today, one way that we tell the Good News of Jesus is by showing love to others, just like His followers in the early church [the church recorded in Acts].

“Some disciples of Jesus [then and now] move to other countries to share the Good News and make disciples [followers]. These people are called missionaries, and they fulfill *The Great Commission* all around the world. But remember, *The Great Commission* is not only for missionaries to obey—it is for all of us! You don’t have to move to another country to share the Good News and make disciples. **You can go and make disciples for Jesus** right here where you are!”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “How amazing is that? Let’s see what else we can learn about our story!”

**DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES**

Say, "Who is ready to discuss our story?"

**1. What is The Great Commission?**

Response: It is going out and sharing the Good News of Jesus!

**2. What is the Good News?**

Response: The Good News is that Jesus died on the Cross and became alive again so that our sins can be forgiven and we can live with Him forever in heaven!

**3. Who does Jesus want to hear this Good News?**

Response: He wants everyone - all the nations of the world - to hear the Good News!

**4. How can the nations of the world hear the Good News?**

Response: They can hear the Good News from missionaries, and through you and me - **I can go and make disciples for Jesus!**

**5. How can we share the Good News of Jesus?**

Response: Answers will vary. (We can tell others about Jesus and show His love to them in our actions!)

**6. What are some ways we can show the love of Jesus to others so they will want to follow Him too?**

Response: Answers will vary. (Sharing, kindness, befriending someone, etc)

**7. What does this story tell us about God?**

Response: God wants us to hear the Good News. God wants us to share the Good News. God sent Jesus to save us. God loves us. God wants us to love others, etc.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job answering those questions! **"We can go and make disciples** just like the followers of Jesus we read about today. Let's make a craft to help us remember our story!"

**RESPOND — 10 MINUTES**

**MATERIALS:** | *Globe* Activity Page (1 per child) | *Feet* Activity Page (1 per 2 children) | Crayons | Hole Punch | Glue Stick | 6" Pieces of Yarn (1 per child) | Scissors |

Say, "Today, we are going to reread our story and create a craft to remind us of *The Great Commission*. Can we do it all together?"



BEFORE CLASS, CUT THE *FEET* ACTIVITY PAGE IN HALF ALONG THE DOTTED LINE. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH FEET FOR EACH CHILD TO HAVE ONE PAIR.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Give each child both a *Globe* Activity Page, a *Feet* Activity Page, scissors, and crayons.
- Reread the Scripture from today's lesson as the kids color the *Globe* and *Feet* Activity Pages.
- Let the children cut out the globe and feet. Assist as needed.
- Explain that they should glue the top half of the feet onto the bottom of the globe. The bottom of the feet should suspend below the globe.
- Finally, have the children punch a hole at the top of the globe and tie a piece of yarn through the hole to hang their craft.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job, everyone! You can hang these up somewhere to help you remember *The Great Commission* of Jesus. Remember, **you can go and make disciples for Jesus!**"

## MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Today's memory verse is *The Great Commission* that Jesus wants us to obey." Read the verse through once, do the actions, and then invite everyone to join you.

**"So go** (*march forward a few steps*) **and make followers** (*link arms with another person*) **of all people in the world** (*outline a large circle with both hands*)." **Matthew 28:19 (ICB)** (*hold your hands out like a book*)

## REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "We learned so much about *The Great Commission* today! We discovered that *The Great Commission* is not just for the disciples of Jesus in the Bible or only for missionaries. **We can go and make disciples for Jesus** too! We can also pray for missionaries who obey *The Great Commission* by living in other countries. Who would like to pray for us before we go?"



IF YOU OR YOUR CHURCH HAS A COPY OF THE *IPHC LINK PRAYER GUIDE*, SHOW THE CHILDREN PICTURES OF IPHC MISSIONARY CHILDREN LIVING IN OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THEIR PARENTS. YOU CAN ALSO FIND AN ONLINE DIRECTORY OF OUR MISSIONARIES AT [HTTPS://GIVE.IPHC.ORG/MISSIONARIES](https://give.iphc.org/missionaries).

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** "God, we are so amazed by You! You made a way through Jesus for our sins to be forgiven and for us to live with You forever. Thank You for this Good News! Help us tell others this Good News and to show them Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen."

## RELEASE —

Have the children finish their craft, play *Red Light, Green Light* again, or continue practicing the memory verse if there is extra time.









