

# KIDS4MISSIONS!



GROW GIVE GO

Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)



# KIDS4MISSIONS

# Prep Guide

## Big Lessons

This unit helps children understand that **Jesus Invites Me to the Great Commission!** They will learn what it means to GROW in their relationship with Jesus and knowledge of His calling, GIVE what they have, and GO share His love with others. Through Bible stories, activities, and games from around the world, kids will see how they can be part of God's mission right where they are helping them understand that following Jesus means saying "yes" to His invitation every day.

## Lesson One

| Lesson 1 Game Activity Page (1 per class) | Hat or Small Container (1 per class) |  
*My Prayer Passport* Activity Pages 1-3 (1 per child) | Scissors | Hole Punch |  
Brass Paper Fasteners (3 per student) | Crayons or Colored Pencils | Pens or Pencils |

## Lesson Two

| Parachute (1 per class) | Assorted Stuffed Animals (10-12 per class) | *My Prayer Passport*  
Activity Page 4 (1 per child) and Page 5 (1 per class) | Yarn or String (6" per child) | Scissors |  
Hole Punch | Tape | Crayons or Colored Pencils | Pens or Pencils | Mini Globe Stamp |

## Lesson Three

| *Scrambled Puzzle* Activity Page (1 per group) | Colored Pencils | *My Prayer Passport* Activity  
Pages 6 - 7 (1 per child) | Scissors | Hole Punch | Crayons or Colored Pencils | Pens or Pencils |  
Mini Globe Stamp |

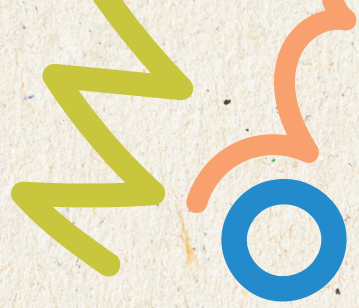
## Lesson Four

| Students' Shoes | *My Prayer Passport* Activity Page 8 (1 per child) | Hole Punch |  
Crayons or Colored Pencils | Pens or Pencils | Mini Globe Stamp |

## Lesson Five – Bonus Lesson

| *My Prayer Passport* Activity Page 9 (1 per child) | Hole Punch | Crayons or Colored Pencils |  
Pens or Pencils | Mini Globe Stamp |

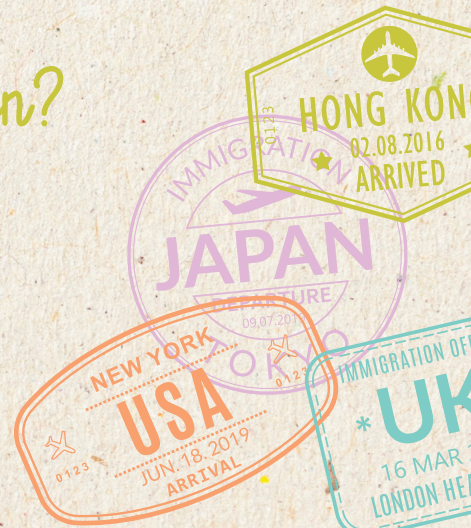
*\*You can purchase a mini globe stamp online or at your local craft store.  
Use different color ink each week for a fun variation.*



# KIDS4MISSIONS!



Lesson One:  
What is the Great Commission?



# What is The Great Commission?

## Bible Passage

Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8-9 (ICB)

## Big Idea

Jesus Calls me to the Great Commission!

## Focus Verse

<sup>13</sup> The Scripture says, “Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him. And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him. And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them. <sup>15</sup> And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent. It is written, “How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news.” Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)

## Lesson Materials

| Lesson 1 Game Activity Page (1 per class) | Hat or Small Container (1 per class) |  
 My Prayer Passport Activity Pages 1-3 (1 per child) | Scissors | Hole Punch |  
 Brass Paper Fasteners (3 per student) | Crayons or Colored Pencils | Pens or Pencils |  
 Mini Globe Stamp (See K4M Unit Preparation Guide.) |

## Greet

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- How does it feel when your friends include you in exciting plans?
- What is your favorite memory of being invited somewhere? Who invited you? What did you do and where did you go?

## Worship

Choose from the following worship songs by Watoto Children’s Choir to supplement this unit’s

lessons and to incorporate into your regularly scheduled kids' ministry worship set:

"We Will Go"

"I Speak Jesus"

"Signs and Wonders"

"No One"

"Holding On"

"Sufficient"

Alternatively, you can supplement these lessons by playing common English praise and worship songs sung in different languages. We recommend the following:

"How Great is Our God" (World Edition)

"Océanos" —Hillsong en Español (Spanish)

"Ich rufe Hallelujah" —Alive Worship (German)

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" —Sakhnini Brothers (Arabic)

Pray 

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** Say, "Dear God, we thank You for loving us and saving us through Jesus. We want to live in a way that honors You and shows others Your love. Help us to follow You every day. Amen."

Review 

**BACKGROUND:** Say, "For the next few weeks, we are learning some very exciting things! We are learning about God's great invitation to **GROW, GIVE and GO** in our church, in our community, and in our world! We call this THE GREAT COMMISSION. **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!** Which means He instructs me to participate in the Great Commission. When Jesus was on earth, He invited people to follow Him and learn about who He was—the Messiah, the one who came to save us! Some of those followers became His disciples. They didn't just listen to His teachings, they accepted His invitation to **GROW** in knowledge and understanding of who He was and His mission. They lived and traveled with Him, learning closely from everything He said and did. Before He returned to heaven, Jesus gave this group of disciples important instructions: to **GIVE** [their lives, time and resources] and to **GO** make other disciples by telling them the Good News of who He is—this is the Great Commission!"

**TRANSITION:** Say, "We will learn more about what this means later, but first let's play a game together!"

Game 

**MATERIALS:** Lesson 1 Game Activity Page (1 per class), Hat or Small Container (1 per class)

**GAME GOAL:** Students will accurately repeat to their fellow classmates what they were told.

**HOW TO PLAY:**

1. Students will form a circle and one student will select a paper from the hat or container.
2. The student who chooses a paper reads it and whispers it only one time in the ear of the student to their left.
3. The students will pass the message on to the next student by whispering in their ear until the final student in the circle has heard the message.
4. The last student in the circle must declare the message loudly to see if the message was passed correctly.
5. Let other students take turns selecting a paper to read and passing the message, as time permits.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great job playing the game everyone! Just like you shared your message with your friends, we are called to share the message of Jesus with others. This is called the Great Commission.”

**Introduction to the Great Commission**

Say, “Our Big Idea for the next few weeks is **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission**. Did you know that a commission is an instruction or a command? As believers, Jesus instructs us to share the Gospel with others. The Gospel is the Good News that through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, God offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe.

“Let’s read God’s Word together and learn more about the Great Commission. Let’s turn in our Bibles to Matthew 28:16-20 (ICB).”

**<sup>16</sup> The 11 followers went to Galilee. They went to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. <sup>17</sup> On the mountain they saw Jesus and worshiped him. But some of them did not believe that it was really Jesus. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. <sup>19</sup> So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach them to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world.**

Say, “But it doesn’t stop there. Let’s continue to read in Acts 1:8-9.”

**Jesus said to them...<sup>8</sup> The Holy Spirit will come to you. Then you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.”**

**<sup>9</sup> After he said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up. A cloud hid him from their sight.**

**Understanding the Great Commission**

Say, “Wow! Jesus calls us to make disciples but not without sending the Holy Spirit to help us. What a great calling! This is the commission that we were talking about earlier, the Great

Commission. Through this instruction, Jesus is inviting us to teach others about Him by sharing the Good News. That's it. Teach others about Jesus so that they can know Him and want to share that same Good News with others. It is kind of like the game we played earlier."

### The Disciples and The Great Commission

**Say**, "The Bible verses we just read were written by two followers of Jesus named Matthew and Luke. They were empowered and inspired by the Holy Spirit to write down the Good News of Jesus. This was one way they participated in the Great Commission. They, along with many other disciples, were also equipped by the Holy Spirit to teach and preach about Jesus to their families, their city, and their country. They were taught everything they needed to **GROW** in their knowledge and understanding of Jesus and His mission to save the world. He also invited them to **GIVE** everything and empowered them to **GO** anywhere to make more disciples for Him. Some even traveled to far away places and countries to share the Gospel of Jesus."

### You and The Great Commission

**Say**, "The Great Commission was not just an invitation for the disciples in the New Testament, this is a calling for every believer and follower of Jesus. That includes us! We are learning today that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!** This means that we have an instruction from Jesus to share the Good News. He asks us to **GROW** in our knowledge of Him and His mission in the world, to **GIVE** whatever we can to make Jesus known to others, and ask the Holy Spirit to empower us to **GO** wherever He calls us. This might sound like a big task and seem overwhelming, but remember the beautiful promise Jesus made to us - He is always with us! One of the best parts about the Great Commission is that Jesus didn't expect us to do it on our own. He sent the Holy Spirit to help us."

**TRANSITION: Say**, "What a wonderful calling Jesus gives us to **GROW-GIVE-GO** and participate in the Great Commission!"

### Discuss

**Say**, "Today's lesson was full of important truths to remember. Let's talk about it together."

#### 1. Who offered His disciples a special instruction or command?

Response: Jesus

#### 2. What do we call this special instruction or command?

Response: The Great Commission

#### 3. What is Jesus asking His disciples to do in the Great Commission?

Response: Make new disciples. Tell others about Him. Grow-Give-Go.

#### 4. Where will Jesus' disciples participate in the Great Commission?

Response: Anywhere in the world!

#### 5. What is one promise Jesus gave His disciples when He called them to the Great Commission?

Response: He promised them the Holy Spirit would empower them!

#### 6. What is the second promise Jesus gave them?

Response: He promised them His presence would be with them until He returned.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great discussion! Now, let’s work on a craft that will help us remember that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!**”

## Kids4Missions Prayer Passport Craft

**MATERIALS:** *My Prayer Passport* Activity Pages 1-3 (1 per child), Scissors, Hole Punch, Brass Paper Fasteners (3 per student), Crayons or Colored Pencils, Pens or Pencils, Mini Globe Stamp (See K4M Unit Preparation Guide.)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Distribute *My Prayer Passport* Activity Pages 1 and 3 for each student to color. This will be the front cover and the back cover of their prayer passport.
2. Once they finish, instruct them to write their names on page 2 and color that page as they wish.
3. Assist kids with punching holes on the left sides of pages 1 & 2 and on the ride side of page 3. Then instruct them to attach the pages together with three brass fasteners. (Alternatively, for younger students, the teacher can punch holes in the pages before the lesson.)
4. Optional: Once students bind their pages, stamp page 2 of their prayer passports.
5. Collect and store the passports for next week’s lesson. Inform students they will be able to take them home at the end of the month after they are completed.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Wow! You guys did a wonderful job starting your Kids4Missions Passports. We will keep learning together about the Great Commission and adding pages to our prayer passports for the rest of the month!”

## Memory Verse

Say, “Today and in the weeks ahead we will be learning about the Great Commission! We are also learning an important verse to help remind us that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!** Let’s learn it together!”

<sup>13</sup> **The Scripture says** [hold hands out like a book], **“Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved** [hold hands together in prayer].” <sup>14</sup> **But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him** [point to head with pointer fingers]. **And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him** [cup ear with hand]. **And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them** [point to mouth and extend out]. <sup>15</sup> **And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent** [point index finger outward]. **It is written, “How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news** [fan right hand over your face-ASL for beautiful].” **Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)** (hold hands out like a book)

## Reflect

Say, “We learned a very important truth today! We learned that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission**. We are learning that He wants us to **GROW-GIVE-GO: GROW** in our knowledge of Him and His mission in the world, **GIVE** whatever He asks us and **GO** wherever He leads us to make new disciples for Him! As followers of Jesus, we can gladly accept this invitation because He promises to empower us with His spirit and that His presence will be with us until He returns one day.”

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** Say, “Thank you God for who You are! Thank You for the special invitation You offer us to **GROW-GIVE-GO** and participate in the Great Commission! Thank You for Your Word that teaches us, Your Spirit that empowers us, and Your presence that goes with us wherever You lead us in this world! Amen.”

## Release

If there is extra time, replay the game, finish the craft activity or recite the memory verse again.

# KIDS4MISSIONS

## LESSON ONE:

### *What is The Great Commission?*

Cut out the phrases below for students to whisper to classmates during Game Time for Lesson One. Use blank spaces to write your own phrases for the game.

GROW-GIVE-GO!

THE GREAT COMISSION

THE GOSPEL IS THE GOOD  
NEWS!

JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR!

I WILL FOLLOW JESUS  
ANYWHERE!

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES ME  
POWER TO GO!

JESUS LOVES ME AND  
EVERYONE IN THE WORLD!

I CAN TELL OTHERS ABOUT  
JESUS!

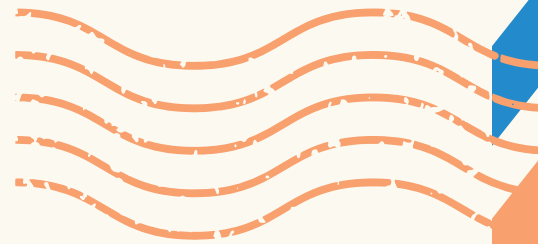
Blank space for writing a phrase.

Blank space for writing a phrase.

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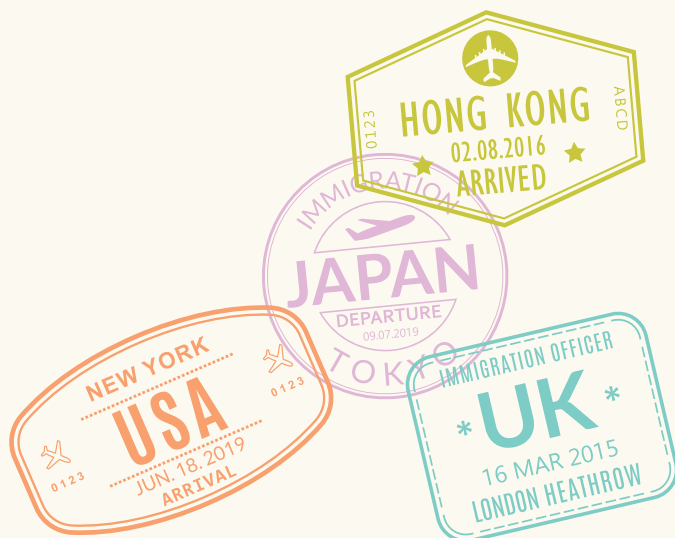
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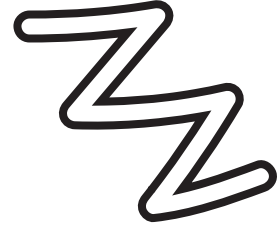
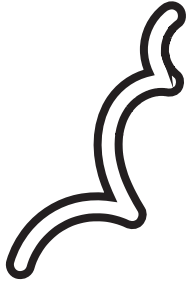
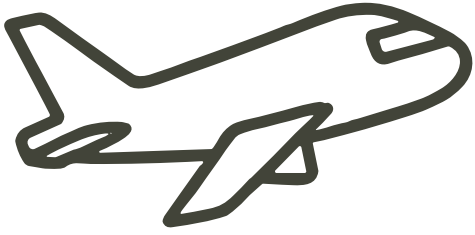
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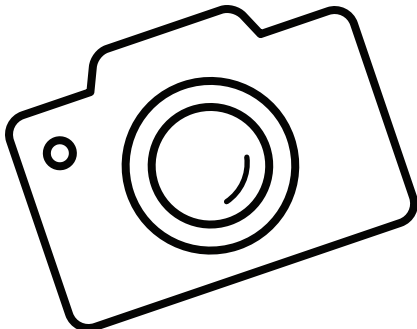
KIDS4MISSIONS  
PRAYER PASSPORT

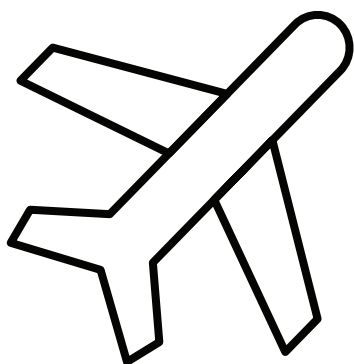




THIS PASSPORT BELONGS TO:

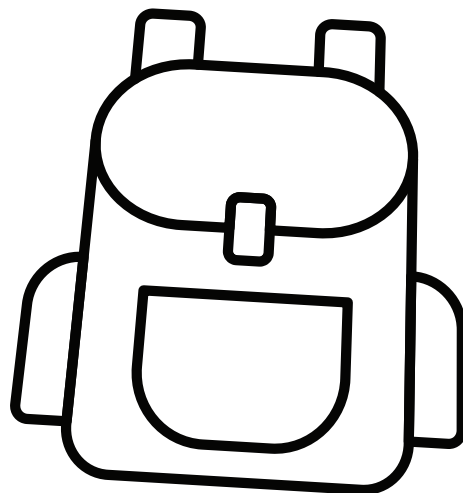
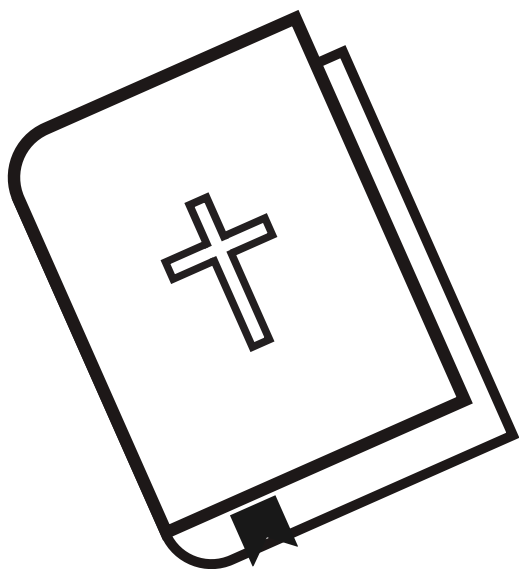
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# JESUS CALLS ME TO THE GREAT COMMISSION!

"HOW BEAUTIFUL IS THE PERSON  
WHO COMES TO BRING GOOD NEWS."  
-ROMANS 10:15B

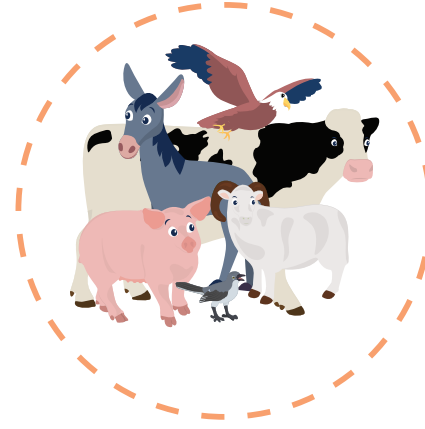
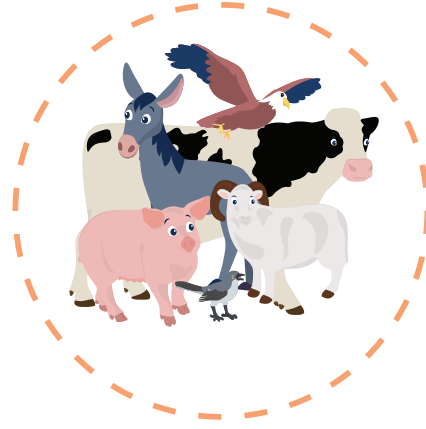


I CAN PRAY FOR  
SOMEONE THAT DOESN'T  
KNOW JESUS:



A sheet of white paper with horizontal dotted lines for writing. A pink tab is attached to the top left corner. The paper is slightly tilted and has a drop shadow.



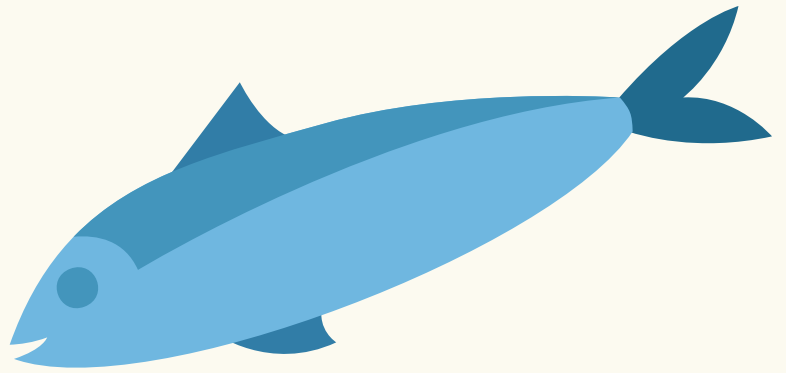
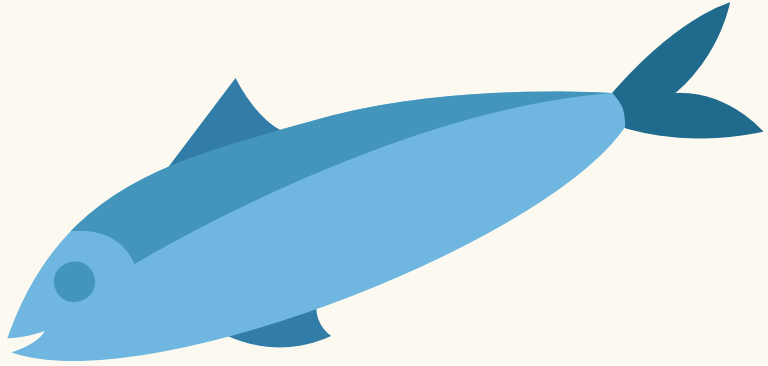


# WHAT IS JESUS ASKING ME TO GIVE?

Take a minute to be quiet and still. Ask Jesus if there's something you can give Him. Wait and listen for an answer. On the loaves and fish below, write down anything you hear God say to you.



# WHAT IS JESUS ASKING ME TO GIVE?



# JESUS SEEKS AND SAVES THE LOST!

Seek for the words lost in the puzzle and circle them.

JESUS GOSPEL GREAT  
TREE HOUSE ZACCHEUS  
SAVE SEEK GIVE  
TAX GROW SHORT  
LOVE INVITE WORLD

T F T S X I N Z T C C K A N S  
T K D J E O M Y M G T B O W U  
D Z A C C H E U S O G Y C I H  
I A Z P C T K T Y S S R T P X  
P J G I S H A W K P Y A E K M  
Z U R S E P L X R E O M V A V  
R Z O C E T O D O L H V T E T  
D D W J K Q V I S W W I J G N  
S N S J N F E V R E G W A I A  
V L S H A Y P H O U S E L V W  
G H Q O O I R H T R E E I E O  
G D C K J R J C B K A O H C R  
Z S C P X P T K D V X Z B F L  
K P O D O V U M U O I I D M D  
P S R I N V I T E J E S U S J

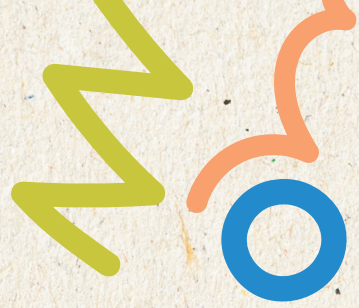
Think about someone who is hard to love, someone that doesn't know Jesus. Stop and pray for them to be saved



# MEET ORVIE!

Orvie is our Kids4Missions mascot!  
He's excited about The Great Comission!





# KIDS4MISSIONS!



Lesson Two:  
How is Jesus Asking Me to GROW?



# How is Jesus Asking Me to GROW?

## Bible Passage

Acts 10:1-33 (ICB)

## Big Idea

Jesus Calls me to the Great Commission!

## Focus Verse

<sup>13</sup> The Scripture says, “Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him. And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him. And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them. <sup>15</sup> And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent. It is written, “How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news.” Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)

## Lesson Materials

| Parachute (1 per class) | Assorted Stuffed Animals (10-12 per class) | *My Prayer Passport* Activity Page 4 (1 per child) and Page 5 (1 per class) | Yarn or String (6” per child) | Scissors | Hole Punch | Tape | Crayons or Colored Pencils | Pens or Pencils | Mini Globe Stamp (See K4M Unit Preparation Guide.) |

## Greet

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What’s your favorite food or meal?
- What’s your least favorite food?
- What is something you enjoy eating but your family or friends find strange or unusual?
- What is the most unusual food you’ve ever seen someone eat in real life or on TV?

## Worship

Choose from the following worship songs by Watoto Children’s Choir to supplement this unit’s lessons and to incorporate into your regularly scheduled kids’ ministry worship set:

“We Will Go”  
 “I Speak Jesus”  
 “Signs and Wonders”  
 “No One”  
 “Holding On”  
 “Sufficient”

Alternatively, you can supplement these lessons by playing common English praise and worship songs sung in different languages. We recommend the following:

“How Great is Our God” (World Edition)  
 “Océanos” —Hillsong en Español (Spanish)  
 “Ich rufe Hallelujah” —Alive Worship (German)  
 “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” —Sakhnini Brothers (Arabic)

## Pray

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** Say, “Dear God, we are grateful that You love us and that through Jesus You save us and give us eternal life! We want to tell others this Good News and teach them about Your love. Help us to **GROW** in our knowledge of You today and give us Your power to tell others about how great You are wherever we go! Amen.”

## Review

**BACKGROUND:** Say, “In our Kids4Missions unit, we are learning some very exciting things! We are learning about God’s great invitation to **GROW, GIVE** and **GO** right here in our church, in our community, and in our world! Last week, we learned that wonderful invitation is called the Great Commission and that, as a believer, **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!**”

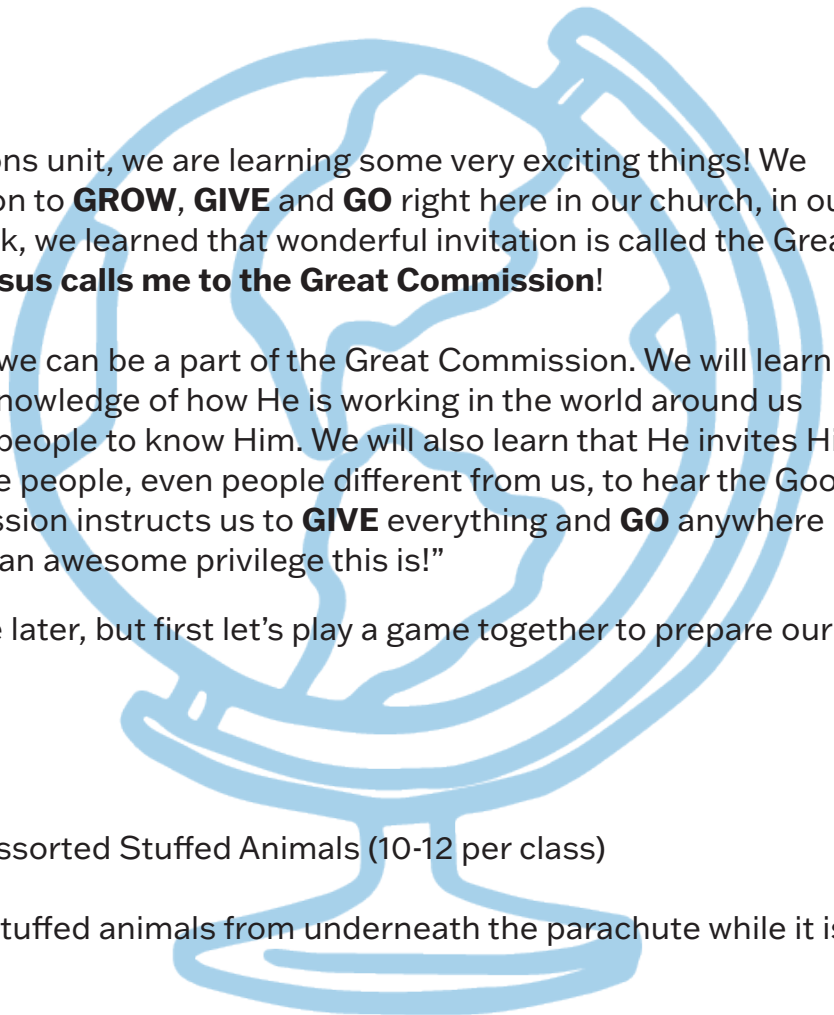
“In our lesson today, we will learn how we can be a part of the Great Commission. We will learn that Jesus invites us to **GROW** in our knowledge of how He is working in the world around us and how He is preparing the hearts of people to know Him. We will also learn that He invites His disciples to participate in helping those people, even people different from us, to hear the Good News—the Gospel! The Great Commission instructs us to **GIVE** everything and **GO** anywhere to make new disciples for Jesus! What an awesome privilege this is!”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “We will learn more later, but first let’s play a game together to prepare our hearts and minds for today’s lesson!”

## Game

**MATERIALS:** Parachute (1 per class), Assorted Stuffed Animals (10-12 per class)

**GAME GOAL:** Students will collect the stuffed animals from underneath the parachute while it is lifted.



**HOW TO PLAY:**

1. Arrange various stuffed animals underneath the parachute.
2. Instruct students to form a circle and hold the edge of the parachute.
3. Select one student to go first. On the count of "1,2,3,Lift!" instruct all the students to lift the parachute up so that it balloons into the air. Shout an animal, e.g. "Lion!"
4. The student you selected will run underneath the raised parachute, rescue the stuffed lion, and bring it out to safety.
5. Repeat with different students and different animals.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job playing the game everyone! Let's hear a story about different kinds of animals and also learn more about the Great Commission from God's Word!"

**The Good Work on the Cross**

Say, "Today we are learning about an amazing command that Jesus gives to all of his disciples - that includes you and me! Our learning focus for the next few weeks is **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission**. The Great Commission is Jesus' instruction to all believers to share the Gospel. Remember, the Gospel is the Good News that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe.

"It is only through Jesus that we can be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life in Heaven. This is God's best plan to make us right with Him so that we could have a relationship with Him. Jesus makes us right with God through the good work He did on the cross! We can't earn this for ourselves in any way. There is nothing we could do or say, no amount of work or chores that we could do to get us into Heaven. But now we do good works not to earn anything but to show Jesus our gratitude for how He saved us and made us right with God. One of the good works Jesus asks us to do is to participate in the Great Commission by telling others this Good News!"

**God Calls Peter to the Great Commission**

Say, "This is an exciting commission that will sometimes lead us to unusual and unexpected places. Let's read God's Word about one of Jesus's disciples named Peter who received a strange and unexpected invitation. God calls Peter to share the Good News with people from a different culture. These people were living in his home country, and God had prepared their hearts to hear the Gospel from Peter. Everyone turn in your Bibles to Acts 10:1-33 and read along with me." Read Acts 10:1-16 (ICB) directly from your Bible.

**<sup>1</sup>At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius. He was an officer in the Italian group of the Roman army. <sup>2</sup> Cornelius was a religious man. He and all the other people who lived in his house worshiped the true God. He gave much of his money to the poor and prayed to God often.**

**<sup>3</sup> One afternoon about three o'clock, Cornelius saw a vision clearly. In the vision an angel of God came to him and said, "Cornelius!" <sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at the angel. He became afraid and said, "What do you want, Lord?" The angel said, "God has heard your prayers. He has seen what you give to the poor. And God remembers you. <sup>5</sup> Send some men now to Joppa to bring back**

a man named Simon. Simon is also called Peter. <sup>6</sup> Simon is staying with a man, also named Simon, who is a leatherworker. He has a house beside the sea.” <sup>7</sup> Then the angel who spoke to Cornelius left. Cornelius called two of his servants and a soldier. The soldier was a religious man who worked for Cornelius. <sup>8</sup> Cornelius explained everything to these three men and sent them to Joppa.

<sup>9</sup> The next day as they came near Joppa, Peter was going up to the roof to pray. It was about noon. <sup>10</sup> Peter was hungry and wanted to eat. But while the food was being prepared, he had a vision. <sup>11</sup> He saw heaven opened and something coming down. It looked like a big sheet being lowered to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> In it were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and birds.

<sup>13</sup> Then a voice said to Peter, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, “No, Lord! I have never eaten food that is unholy or unclean.” <sup>15</sup> But the voice said to him again, “God has made these things clean. Don’t call them ‘unholy!’” <sup>16</sup> This happened three times. Then the sheet was taken back to heaven.

### **Peter Says ‘No!’ to the Great Commission**

Say, “In today’s story we see that Peter was in a city called Joppa and Cornelius was in a city called Caesarea. While these cities were in the same country, Caesarea was different because more non-Jewish people lived there than Jewish people. Peter was a Jewish man and all of his family and most of his friends were Jewish. [Now may be a good time to explain that Jesus, His family and most of His closest friends were Jewish people.] Jews were the largest group of people in the country. Non-Jewish people, like Cornelius, were called “Gentiles,” and were mostly avoided by Jews because they did not follow the same cultural practices and traditions that God had established for the Jewish people in the Old Testament. This included a list of food that Jews were allowed to eat and a list of foods they were not allowed to eat. It is important to remember that God established the Jewish people as a special people and gave them certain rules and standards to follow. These rules and standards would set them apart from the world but also bring attention and glory to God. Ultimately, God established this group of people to be a blessing and example to the other nations so they might also believe in God.

“Over time the Jewish people followed God’s rules but did not follow God’s heart behind those rules. This created barriers between them and the Gentiles that God never intended. His heart was always for His people, the Jews, to show the Gentiles who God is - the true, holy and loving God. This is what God was inviting Peter to remember when He instructed Peter to eat food that was previously considered wrong to eat. This vision was God’s way of preparing Peter’s heart to accept the invitation to visit a Gentile man named Cornelius in his home and share the Gospel with him and his family. This was all so strange and new to Peter, so he said ‘no’ to this invitation. Yet, God shows him the same vision and offers the same invitation two more times. Let’s keep reading to see if Peter will keep saying, ‘no’ or if he will allow God to change His heart.” Read Acts 10:17-33.

<sup>17</sup> While Peter was wondering what this vision meant, the men Cornelius sent had found Simon’s house. They were standing at the gate. <sup>18</sup> They asked, “Is Simon Peter staying here?” <sup>19</sup> Peter was still thinking about the vision. But the Spirit said to him, “Listen! Three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> Get up and go downstairs. Go with them and don’t ask questions. I have sent them to you.”

<sup>21</sup> So Peter went down to the men. He said, “I am the man you are looking for. Why did you come here?” <sup>22</sup> They said, “A holy angel spoke to Cornelius, an army officer. He is a good man; he worships God. All the Jewish people respect him. The angel told Cornelius to ask you to his house so that he can hear what you have to say.” <sup>23</sup> Peter asked the men to come in and spend the night. The next day Peter got ready and went with them. Some of the brothers from Joppa joined him.

<sup>24</sup> On the following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them. He had called together his relatives and close friends. <sup>25</sup> When Peter entered, Cornelius met him. He fell at Peter’s feet and worshiped him. <sup>26</sup> But Peter helped him up, saying, “Stand up! I too am only a man.” <sup>27</sup> Peter went on talking with Cornelius as they went inside. There Peter saw many people together. <sup>28</sup> He said, “You people understand that it is against our Jewish law for a Jew to associate with or visit anyone who is not a Jew. But God has shown me that I should not call any person ‘unholy’ or ‘unclean.’ <sup>29</sup> That is why I did not argue when I was asked to come here. Now, please tell me why you sent for me.”

<sup>30</sup> Cornelius said, “Four days ago, I was praying in my house. It was at this same time—three o’clock in the afternoon. Suddenly, there was a man standing before me wearing shining clothes. <sup>31</sup> He said, ‘Cornelius! God has heard your prayer. He has seen what you give to the poor. And God remembers you. <sup>32</sup> So send some men to Joppa and ask Simon Peter to come. Peter is staying in the house of a man, also named Simon, who is a leatherworker. His house is beside the sea.’ <sup>33</sup> So I sent for you immediately, and it was very good of you to come. Now we are all here before God to hear everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

### Peter Says ‘Yes!’ to the Great Commission

Say, “Wow! Peter finally accepted the invitation to **GROW** in his knowledge about God’s heart for Gentiles like Cornelius. This felt uncomfortable and strange to Peter, and even though he said, ‘no’ at first, he realized that God was inviting him to see the Gentiles in a different way - the way God saw them! After Peter said ‘yes’ to God’s invitation, he was willing to **GIVE** hospitality to the Gentile men Cornelius sent to him. He invited them to come into the house and stay the night with him. As a Jewish person, this was a new experience for Peter to stay in the same house with Gentiles, non-Jewish people. However, Peter was willing to **GIVE** them hospitality because he understood God was calling him to do that.

“The next day Peter was willing to **GO** with them to Cornelius’ home. Although Peter didn’t have to travel to a different country, accepting this commission was something new and uncomfortable for Peter as a Jewish person. However, he was able to **GO** because he was willing to **GROW** in his understanding of God’s heart for people who were different than him.

“When he arrived at Cornelius’ home, he found a large group of Gentiles ready and eager to hear the Gospel. Later in this passage we read today, Peter shares the Good News of Jesus with Cornelius and everyone in his house. Then they were all baptized and they received the same power from the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised His disciples. Peter realized that God’s heart is

to bring salvation to anyone who believes in Jesus - ANYONE - and that includes people from all different backgrounds and cultures.”

### Jesus Calls Me to the Great Commission

Say, “What a great story! The call to the Great Commission that Peter was given, is also offered to us today! We are learning today that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!** God invites us to **GROW** in our knowledge of His heart to save everyone in the world - even people who are different from us! He invites us, like Peter, to **GIVE** hospitality to them, to be willing to invite them into our lives and homes, to get close to them so that we can have opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus with them. Today’s story also reminds us that we don’t always have to travel to a different country like a missionary to **GO!** We can be part of the Great Commission right where we are! Wherever we **GO** in our town, school or community, we can share the Gospel with anyone we meet, even those who are different from us! Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit empowers us to **GO** wherever He calls us and that He is always with us!”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “What a wonderful command Jesus gives us like Peter to **GROW-GIVE-GO** right where we are and participate in the Great Commission!”

### Discuss

Say, “Today’s lesson was full of important truth! Let’s talk about it together.”

#### 1. Which disciple received an unusual vision and invitation from heaven?

Response: Peter

#### 2. What was the vision and invitation Peter received?

Response: It was a vision of many different kinds of animals. Peter was invited to eat one of them!

#### 3. Why did Peter hesitate?

Response: Because he had never eaten those kind of animals before?

#### 4. The vision prepared Peter’s heart for another invitation. What was that invitation?

Response: To meet with a Gentile named Cornelius in his home and tell him the Good News.

#### 5. Why was this also an unexpected invitation?

Response: Jewish people and Gentiles were not usually friends and did not usually visit each other.

#### 6. What was God teaching Peter in the story?

Response: Peter learned that God’s heart was for Gentiles like Cornelius to also know Him and to hear the Gospel of the salvation Jesus offers every person no matter their background.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great discussion! Now, let’s work on our Prayer Passport together. It’ll remind us that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!**”

# Kids4Missions Prayer Passport Craft

**MATERIALS:** *My Prayer Passport* Activity Pages 4 (1 per child) and 5 (1 per class), Yarn or String (6" per child), Scissors, Hole Punch, Tape, Crayons or Colored Pencils, Pens or Pencils, Mini Globe Hand Stamp (See K4M Unit Preparation Guide.)

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Prior to class, cut out the circles of animals from *My Prayer Passport* Activity Page 5. Be sure to have one per student.
2. Give each student a copy of *My Prayer Passport* Activity Page 4, one animal cutout from page 5, and one piece of yarn.
3. Instruct the students to punch one small hole in the middle of the animals. Then punch two holes on page 4 in the designated areas.
4. Help students string the yarn through top hole on page 4, the animal cutout, then bottom hole on page 4. Tie the string together on the backside of page 4, and tape it down on backside of the page.
5. Students can lower and raise the animals on the string to remember the story of Peter's vision from today's lesson.
6. Ask students to write the name or draw a picture in the space provided on the page of someone who doesn't know Jesus and needs salvation.
7. Assist kids with punching holes on the left sides of page 4 in the designated areas. Then instruct them to add the pages to their Prayer Passport they started last week. (It's good to have extra Prayer Passport Activity Pages 1-3, for students that may have been absent last week.)
8. Optional: Once students bind their pages, stamp page 4 of their Prayer Passports.
9. Collect and store the passports for next week's lesson. Inform students they will be able to take them home at the end of the month after they are completed.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Wow! You guys did a wonderful job adding pages to your K4M Prayer Passports!"

## Memory Verse

Say, "This month we are continuing to learn about the Great Commission! We are also learning an important verse to help remind us that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!** Let's review it again together!"

<sup>13</sup> **The Scripture says** [hold hands out like a book], "**Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved** [hold hands together in prayer]." <sup>14</sup> **But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him** [point to head with pointer fingers]. **And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him** [cup ear with hand]. **And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them** [point to mouth and extend out]. <sup>15</sup> **And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent** [point index finger outward]. **It is written, "How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news** [fan right hand over your face-ASL for beautiful]." **Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)** (hold hands out like a book)

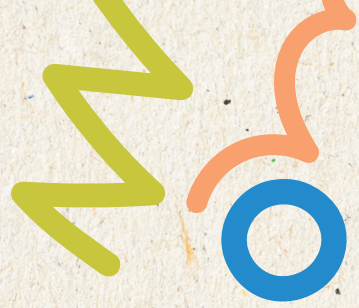
## Reflect

Say, "We learned a very important truth today! We learned that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission**. We are learning that He wants us to **GROW-GIVE-GO: GROW** in our knowledge of Him and His mission in the world, **GIVE** whatever He asks of us and **GO** wherever He leads us to make new disciples for Him! As followers of Jesus, we can gladly accept this invitation because He promises to empower us with His Spirit. With the Holy Spirit, we can do all of this and His presence will be with us until He returns."

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** Say, *"Thank you God for who You are! Thank You for the special invitation You offer us to GROW-GIVE-GO and participate in the Great Commission! Thank You for Your Word that teaches us, Your Spirit that empowers us, and Your presence that goes with us wherever You lead us in this world! Amen."*

## Release

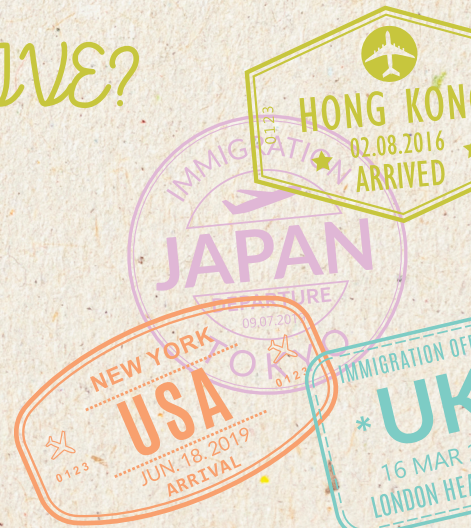
If there is extra time, replay the game, finish the craft activity or recite the memory verse again.



# KIDS4MISSIONS!



Lesson Three:  
What is Jesus Asking Me to GIVE?



# What is Jesus Asking Me to GIVE?

## Bible Passage

John 6:1-14 (ICB)

## Big Idea

Jesus Calls me to the Great Commission!

## Focus Verse

<sup>13</sup> The Scripture says, “Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him. And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him. And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them. <sup>15</sup> And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent. It is written, “How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news.” Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)

## Lesson Materials

| Scrambled Puzzle Activity Page (1 per group) | Colored Pencils | My Prayer Passport Activity Pages 6 - 7 (1 per child) | Scissors | Hole Punch | Crayons or Colored Pencils | Pens or Pencils | Mini Globe Stamp (See K4M Unit Preparation Guide.) |

## Greet



Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What was the most memorable gift you received?
- What was your favorite gift that you planned for someone you loved?
- Is sharing easy or difficult for you?

## Worship



Choose from the following worship songs by Watoto Children’s Choir to supplement this unit’s lessons and to incorporate into your regularly scheduled kids’ ministry worship set:

“We Will Go”  
 “I Speak Jesus”  
 “Signs and Wonders”  
 “No One”  
 “Holding On”  
 “Sufficient”

Alternatively, you can supplement these lessons by playing common English praise and worship songs sung in different languages. We recommend the following:

“How Great is Our God” (World Edition)  
 “Océanos” —Hillsong en Español (Spanish)  
 “Ich rufe Hallelujah” —Alive Worship (German)  
 “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” —Sakhnini Brothers (Arabic)

## Pray

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** Say, “Dear God, we thank You that You love us and that through Jesus You save us and give us eternal life! We want to tell others this Good News and teach them about Your love. Help us to grow in our knowledge of You today. Show us what You want us to give and where You are asking us to go so that more people can know about your great love and salvation! Amen.”

## Review

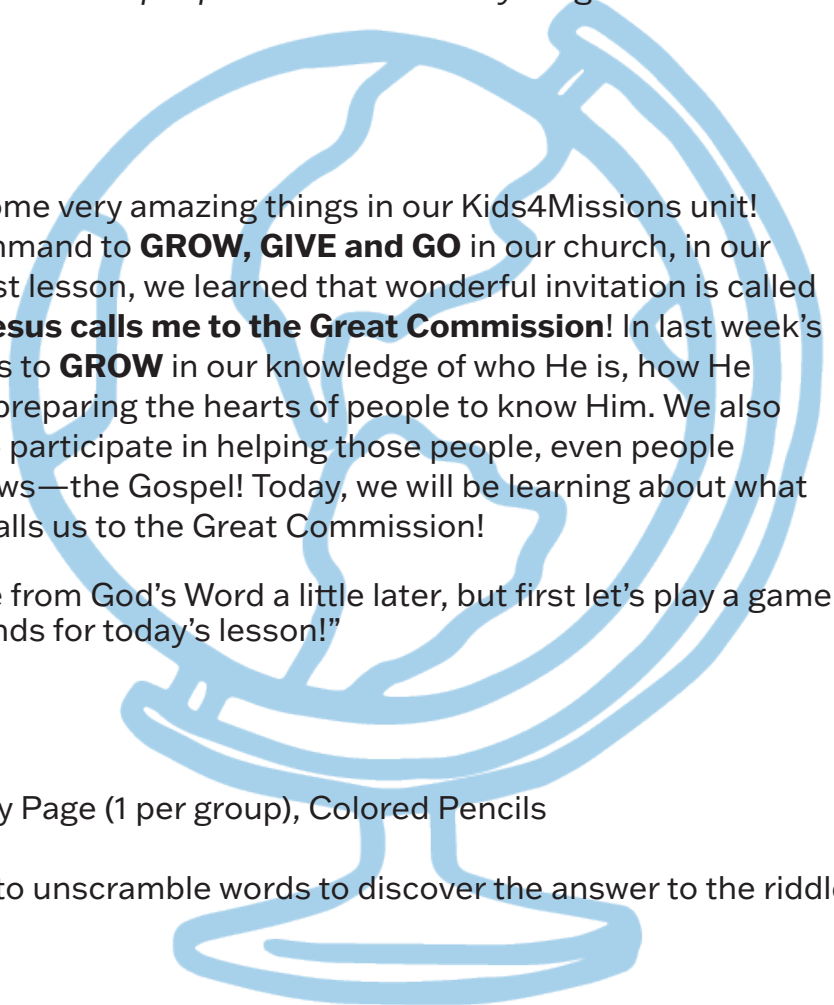
**BACKGROUND:** Say, “We are learning some very amazing things in our Kids4Missions unit! We are learning about God’s great command to **GROW, GIVE and GO** in our church, in our community, and in our world! In our first lesson, we learned that wonderful invitation is called **THE GREAT COMMISSION** and that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!** In last week’s lesson, we learned that Jesus invites us to **GROW** in our knowledge of who He is, how He is working in the world, and how He is preparing the hearts of people to know Him. We also learned that He invites His disciples to participate in helping those people, even people different from us, to hear the Good News—the Gospel! Today, we will be learning about what Jesus might ask us to **GIVE** when He calls us to the Great Commission!”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “We will learn more from God’s Word a little later, but first let’s play a game together to prepare our hearts and minds for today’s lesson!”

## Game

**MATERIALS:** Scrambled Puzzle Activity Page (1 per group), Colored Pencils

**GAME GOAL:** Teams will work together to unscramble words to discover the answer to the riddle in the fastest time.



**HOW TO PLAY:**

1. Divide students into groups of 3-4 students.
2. Distribute pencils and one Scrambled Puzzle Activity Page to each group.
3. Students will unscramble the 5 words on the left side of the sheet. (Answers: pray, give, grow, love, Jesus)
4. Once they have correctly unscrambled those words they will unscramble the circled letters to fill in the blank at the bottom of the page. (Answer: Gospel)
5. The team that finishes in the fastest time with the correct answer will be declared the winner!

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job playing the game and solving the puzzles everyone! Jesus invites us to share the Gospel with anyone, and He gives us the power to go and tell others! Let's learn more from God's Word today!"

**The Boy that Said "Yes"**

Say, "Today we are learning more about the Great Commission, the wonderful command Jesus gives to all his disciples and that means **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!** So far we've been learning that the Great Commission instructs us to **GROW** in our knowledge of God and His mission for the world. Today we will learn about the invitation we have to **GIVE** what we have to Jesus' mission in the world. Let's read God's Word [John 6:1-14] to learn about a young boy who was willing to **GIVE** something small to Jesus. We will see how Jesus turned the boy's small gift into something big!" Read John 6:1-14 (ICB) directly from your Bible.

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus went across Lake Galilee (or, Lake Tiberias). <sup>2</sup> Many people followed him because they saw the miracles he did to heal the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up on a hill and there sat down with his followers. <sup>4</sup> It was almost the time for the Jewish Passover Feast.

<sup>5</sup> Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. He said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for all these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup> (Jesus asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he planned to do.) <sup>7</sup> Philip answered, "Someone would have to work almost a year to buy enough bread for each person here to have only a little piece."

<sup>8</sup> Another follower there was Andrew. He was Simon Peter's brother. Andrew said, <sup>9</sup> "Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people."

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Tell the people to sit down." This was a very grassy place. There were about 5,000 men who sat down there. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the loaves of bread. He thanked God for the bread and gave it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted.

<sup>12</sup> They all had enough to eat. When they had finished, Jesus said to his followers, "Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were not eaten. Don't waste anything." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered up the pieces that were left. They filled 12

large baskets with the pieces that were left of the five barley loaves.

<sup>14</sup> The people saw this miracle that Jesus did. They said, “He must truly be the Prophet who is coming into the world.”

### Jesus Turns a Little into a Lot

Say, “Wow! This young boy was willing to **GIVE** what he had to Jesus. Because he was willing, the boy was able to participate in Jesus’ great miraculous plan to feed so many people. The boy’s lunch was not a very elaborate or extravagant meal. Barley loaves and fish were what most of the poorest people ate during that time. The meal was only large enough for one person, definitely not big enough to feed thousands of people. Yet, when this boy had the opportunity to **GIVE** his lunch to Jesus, he did it. God’s Word doesn’t give us any information about what the boy’s thoughts were. Maybe he wondered how his small lunch could possibly make a difference to such a great need. Maybe he thought he was only providing food for Jesus’ dinner. Either way, it’s clear he believed that Jesus was worthy to **GIVE** all that he had. The miracle was the result of Jesus’ divine power as the Son of God. The boy participated in the miracle because he was willing to **GIVE** his small lunch to Jesus. Not only was there enough to feed everyone that day, there was leftovers for even more people!”

### Jesus Calls Us to GIVE

Say, “This month in our Kids4Missions unit, we are learning that **Jesus calls us to the Great Commission!** The Great Commission instructs us to **GIVE** Jesus anything and sometimes everything we have to participate in the work He is doing all around the world. Sometimes we may feel like what we GIVE seems small or insignificant, but we know that Jesus’ power can multiply and transform it for amazing things. Jesus can do things that we never imagined possible. As we learn more about the Great Commission together this year, we will be introduced to opportunities to GIVE our time, our prayers, and our resources. When we answer God’s call to GIVE, we participate in what God wants to do in our city and all over the world. Over this year, we will accept the invitation to **GROW** in our knowledge of missions and missionaries and to **GIVE** what we have to participate in the Great Commission. Just like the young boy we read about today, we will be amazed at how Jesus can use whatever we **GIVE** to make a greater impact than we ever imagined!”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “What an exciting reminder that **Jesus calls us to the Great Commission.** Let’s review what we’ve learned today!”

### Discuss

Say, “Today’s lesson was full of important truth! Let’s talk about it together.”

#### 1. What was the lunch the young boy gave Jesus?

Response: 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish

#### 2. Why did Jesus ask for his lunch?

Response: Because five thousand people were hungry and needed to be fed

#### 3. Was the boy’s lunch enough for this big need?

Response: Not until Jesus took the lunch and multiplied it by His power

#### 4. What might Jesus ask for us to give Him?

Response: Our time, our prayers, our resources—anything!

**5. What can Jesus do with something small?**

Response: He can do amazing miracles!

**6. What wonderful call, instruction, command from Jesus are we learning about?**

Response: The Great Commission!

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great discussion! Now, let's continue working on our Prayer Passport craft that will help us remember that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!**"

## Kids4Missions Prayer Passport Craft

**MATERIALS:** *My Prayer Passport* Activity Pages 6 - 7 (1 per child), Scissors, Hole Punch, Crayons or Colored Pencils, Pens or Pencils, Mini Globe Stamp (See K4M Unit Preparation Guide.)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Give each student a *My Prayer Passport* Activity Page 6 and 7.
2. Instruct students to cut out the bread and fish from page 7 and glue them to the basket on page 6. Assist younger students when necessary.
3. Guide them through the reflection question on today's Prayer Passport Activity Page, and give students time to write their answers on the bread and fish cutouts.
4. When students finish, help them punch holes in the left margins of page 6 and add it to their Prayer Passports with the brass fasteners.
5. Optional: Once students bind their pages, stamp page 6 of their Prayer Passports.
6. Collect and store the passports for next week's lesson. Inform students they will be able to take them home at the end of the month after they are completed.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Wow! You guys did a wonderful job! Your Prayer Passports are getting filled up!"

## Memory Verse

Say, "This month we are continuing to learn about the Great Commission! We are also learning an important verse to help remind us that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!** Let's review it again together!"

**<sup>13</sup> The Scripture says** [hold hands out like a book], "**Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved** [hold hands together in prayer]."<sup>14</sup> **But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him** [point to head with pointer fingers]. **And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him** [cup ear with hand]. **And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them** [point to mouth and extend out].<sup>15</sup> **And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent** [point index finger outward]. **It is written, "How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news** [fan right hand over your face-ASL for beautiful]." **Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)** (hold hands out like a book)

## Reflect

Say, “We learned a very important truth today! We learned again that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission**. We are learning that He wants us to **GROW-GIVE-GO**: GROW in our knowledge of Him and His mission in the world, GIVE whatever He asks us to give and GO wherever He leads us so we can make new disciples for Him! As followers of Jesus, we can gladly accept this invitation because He promises to empower us with His spirit. We can ask Him to show us ways we can participate in the Great Commission by giving what we have. Even if what we **GIVE** Him is small, in His powerful hands it can be multiplied into an amazing miracle!”

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** Say, “Thank you God for who You are! Thank You for the special invitation You offer us to GROW-GIVE-GO and participate in the Great Commission! Thank You for Your Word that teaches us, Your Spirit that empowers us, and Your presence that goes with us wherever You lead us! [Invite the children to hold out their hands, palms up.] God, You see what it is in our hands, and we gladly GIVE it to You! We ask Your Holy Spirit to show us ways we can GIVE our time, our prayers, and our resources so that others can know You, Jesus. Even if all we have seems small, we believe You can multiply it into a miracle! Amen.”

## Release

If there is extra time, replay the game, finish the craft activity or recite the memory verse again.

# KIDS4MISSIONS

## LESSON THREE:

*What is Jesus asking me to GIVE?*

Unscramble these letters and rewrite the words in the squares.

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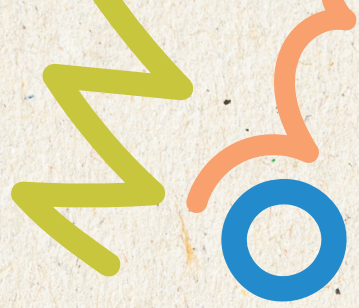
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Now arrange the circled letters above to fill in the missing answer below.

I can share the \_\_\_\_\_ with anyone!



# KIDS4MISSIONS!



## Lesson Four:

*Where is Jesus Asking Me to Go?*



# Where is Jesus Asking Me to GO?

## Bible Passage

Luke 19:1-10 (ICB)

## Big Idea

Jesus Calls me to the Great Commission!

## Focus Verse

<sup>13</sup> The Scripture says, “Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him. And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him. And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them. <sup>15</sup> And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent. It is written, “How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news.” Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)

## Lesson Materials

| Students' Shoes | *My Prayer Passport* Activity Page 8 (1 per child) | Hole Punch | Crayons or Colored Pencils | Pens or Pencils | Mini Globe Stamp (See K4M Unit Preparation Guide.) |

## Greet

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Can you remember a time when you couldn't see something in church or another event because you were surrounded by tall adults? How did that make you feel?
- How do you feel when you can't find something important to you? How do you search for the lost item?
- Who do you feel the most excitement about when they come visit you at your house?
- Can you tell me more about this person and why you get so excited about their visit?

## Worship

Choose from the following worship songs by Watoto Children's Choir to supplement this unit's lessons and to incorporate into your regularly scheduled kids' ministry worship set:

“We Will Go”  
 “I Speak Jesus”  
 “Signs and Wonders”  
 “No One”  
 “Holding On”  
 “Sufficient”

Alternatively, you can supplement these lessons by playing common English praise and worship songs sung in different languages. We recommend the following:

“How Great is Our God” (World Edition)  
 “Océanos” —Hillsong en Español (Spanish)  
 “Ich rufe Hallelujah” —Alive Worship (German)  
 “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” —Sakhnini Brothers (Arabic)

## Pray

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** Say, “Dear God, we thank You that You love us and that through Jesus You save us and give us eternal life! We want to tell others this good news and teach them about Your love. Help us to grow in our knowledge of You today. Show us what You want us to give and where You are asking us to go so that more people can know about Your great love and salvation! Amen.”

## Review

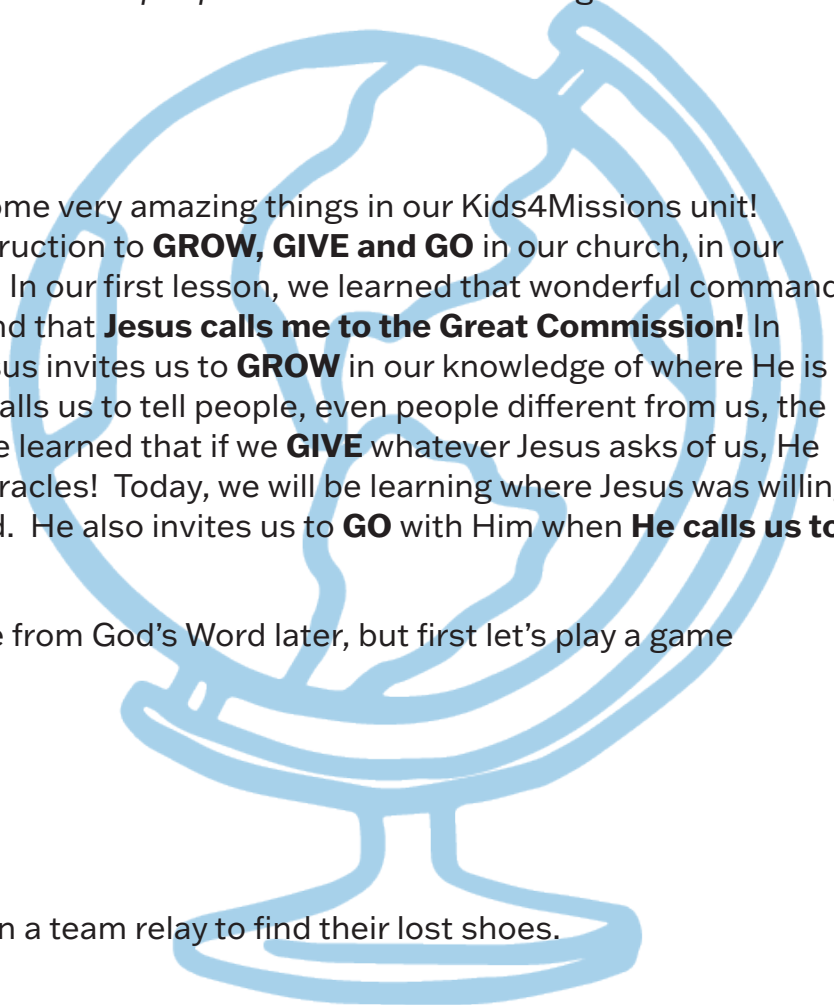
**BACKGROUND:** Say, “We are learning some very amazing things in our Kids4Missions unit! We are learning about God’s great instruction to **GROW, GIVE and GO** in our church, in our community, and throughout our world! In our first lesson, we learned that wonderful command is called **THE GREAT COMMISSION** and that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!** In the second lesson, we learned that Jesus invites us to **GROW** in our knowledge of where He is actively working in the world. And He calls us to tell people, even people different from us, the good news—the Gospel! Last week, we learned that if we **GIVE** whatever Jesus asks of us, He can multiply it and even use it to do miracles! Today, we will be learning where Jesus was willing to **GO** so that someone could be saved. He also invites us to **GO** with Him when **He calls us to the Great Commission!**”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “We will learn more from God’s Word later, but first let’s play a game together before we read our story!”

## Game

**MATERIALS:** Students’ Shoes

**GAME GOAL:** Students will participate in a team relay to find their lost shoes.



**HOW TO PLAY:**

1. Divide students into 2-4 teams, depending on group size.
2. Every team member will remove one shoe and create their team shoe pile. Make sure each team's shoe pile is mixed up thoroughly to make it more challenging.
3. Each team will assemble in a straight line.
4. One student from each team will race to their team shoe pile, find their shoe and put it on before running back to tag the next team mate.
5. The team that finishes first will be the winning team.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job playing the game everyone! You worked together to find your lost shoes! In today's lesson, we will hear a story about how Jesus looks for what is lost!"

**A Man Willing to GO to Jericho**

Say, "We learned in our first lesson that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe. This is the Good News of Jesus—the Gospel! Before Jesus died on the cross, He traveled to many towns and places teaching people and performing miracles. Let's read Luke 19:1-10 to see just how far Jesus was willing to GO to find that which was lost." Read Luke 19:1-10 (ICB) directly from your Bible.

**<sup>1</sup> Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. <sup>2</sup> In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a wealthy, very important tax collector. <sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but he was too short to see above the crowd. <sup>4</sup> He ran ahead to a place where he knew Jesus would come. He climbed a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. He said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus came down quickly. He was pleased to have Jesus in his house. <sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to complain, "Look at the kind of man Jesus stays with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!" <sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus said to the Lord, "I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay that person back four times more!" <sup>9</sup> Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house today. This man truly belongs to the family of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them."**

**A Toll Road**

Say, "What a wonderful story! We just read in Luke 19 that on His way to Jerusalem, the city where He would die on the cross, Jesus passed through another city called Jericho. Many people had to travel through Jericho on their way to other towns and regions. The Roman government made it into a toll [or tax] city where people were required to pay taxes. The Jewish men that were hired by the invading Roman government to receive the money from the people passing through were called 'tax collectors.' They were disliked greatly and even considered traitors because they were working for enemies of their people. Most tax collectors charged the people more than the government required and kept the extra money for themselves. Man, they seem like really mean people. Those dishonest tax collectors became rich by doing this, and most people hated them."

### A Tax Collector

**Say**, “In our story today, we read that one of those tax collectors named Zaccheus was eager to see Jesus. However, because he was so short, he couldn’t stand in the crowd and have a good view of Jesus. Since he was strongly disliked by the people, they didn’t help him get close to Jesus. They may have even intentionally blocked his view and stood in his way. But that didn’t stop Zaccheus! He was so determined to see Jesus that he climbed up into a tree to find a good place to see Jesus as He passed through the city. When Jesus came near to Zaccheus, Jesus didn’t just walk past him. Jesus stopped and called for him to come down from the tree and meet with Him. Then Jesus did something very unusual. He invited Himself to Zaccheus’s house. The people in the crowd could not believe Jesus wanted to go to a dishonest tax collector’s house. They complained and grumbled about it among themselves. Why would Jesus want to visit this man’s house? Why would He want to be close to Zaccheus and spend time with him?”

### A Changed Heart

**Say**, “Zaccheus, however, was very honored and happy about Jesus’ desire to visit his house. Jesus’ visit to Zaccheus’ house changed Zaccheus’ heart. He realized he needed to live differently and that he needed to stop doing all of the dishonest, wrong things he had done as a corrupt tax collector in Jericho. With a changed heart, Zaccheus made a promise to **GIVE** back generously to anyone he had wronged, and he promised to **GIVE** half of his possessions to the poor in his city. That’s an amazing act of generosity.

### A Part of the Family

“After Zaccheus made these promises, Jesus calls this hated tax collector a very wonderful name. He calls Zaccheus a ‘son of Abraham,’ which means Jesus included him among the people of God, a part of His family. Most Jewish men were considered to be ‘sons of Abraham’ because of their Jewish race. But even though Zaccheus was Jewish, he was seen as a traitor to Israel and many other Jewish men likely no longer considered him a ‘son of Abraham.’ But Jesus did and includes him among the people of God because of his faith and his changed heart.”

### A Man Willing to GO to the Cross

**Say**, “In our story today, Jesus told the people that He came to seek and find the people who were lost and bring them salvation. He knew Zaccheus was lost and needed to be saved, and so Jesus was willing to **GO** to Zaccheus’ home! After Jesus left Jericho, He traveled to Jerusalem to obey God’s will and carry out His plan of salvation for the world. Jesus was willing to **GO** to the cross and lay down His life so that we all can be saved. He came to seek and to save us all.

### A Call to the Great Commission

**Say**, “But the story doesn’t stop there. After the resurrection of Jesus and before He returned to heaven, He invited His disciples to be part of the Great Commission. This is His great command to **GO**, to seek people who were lost, and to share the Gospel. This is the Good News that Jesus offers salvation to every person. Even the really mean tax collector. And you know what? Each one of us is included in that instruction to **GO** and to share the Good News of Jesus. He has called all of us to make new disciples for Him.”

**TRANSITION:** Say, "What a great story to help us remember that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!**"

## Discuss

Say, "Today's lesson was full of wonderful truths! Let's talk about it together."

### 1. Which city did Jesus pass through in our Bible story?

Response: Jericho

### 2. What was Zaccheus' job?

Response: He was a tax collector.

### 3. Why did Zaccheus have trouble seeing Jesus?

Response: He was short.

### 4. How did Jesus surprise Zaccheus and all the people in the crowd?

Response: Jesus invited Himself to Zaccheus' home!

### 5. Why did the people grumble and complain about this?

Response: Tax collectors were disliked because they were dishonest, and no one wanted to go to their homes.

### 6. Why did Jesus want to go to Zaccheus' home and spend time with him?

Response: Jesus came to seek and save lost people like Zaccheus

### 7. How do we know Zaccheus had a changed heart?

Response: He promised to stop being dishonest and to give back anything he had wrongly taken. He also promised to give half of his possessions to the poor.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great discussion! Now, let's continue working on our Prayer Passport to remind us that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!**"

## Kids4Missions Prayer Passport Craft

**MATERIALS:** My Prayer Passport Activity Page 8 (1 per child), Hole Punch, Crayons or Colored Pencils, Pens or Pencils, Mini Globe Stamp (See K4M Unit Preparation Guide.)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each student a Prayer Passport Activity Page 8 and a colored pencil.
2. Allow students time to complete the word search on the Prayer Passport Activity Page 8.
3. When students finish, help them punch holes in the left margins of page 8 and add it to their Prayer Passports with the brass fasteners.
4. Optional: Once students bind their pages, stamp page 8 of their Prayer Passports.
5. Collect and store the passports for next week's lesson. Inform students they will be able to take them home at the end of the month after they are completed.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Wow! You guys did a wonderful job seeking the words lost in the puzzle! Remember Jesus is our wonderful Savior who came to seek and save the lost. That includes us and every person in the world."

## Memory Verse

Say, “This month we are continuing to learn about the Great Commission! We are also learning an important verse to help remind us that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission!** Let’s review it again together!”

<sup>13</sup> **The Scripture says** [hold hands out like a book], **“Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved** [hold hands together in prayer].” <sup>14</sup> **But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him** [point to head with pointer fingers]. **And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him** [cup ear with hand]. **And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them** [point to mouth and extend out]. <sup>15</sup> **And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent** [point index finger outward]. **It is written, “How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news** [fan right hand over your face-ASL for beautiful].” **Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)** (hold hands out like a book)

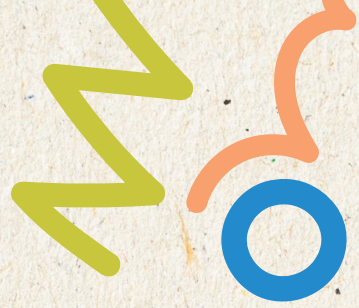
## Reflect

Say, “We learned more about God’s heart today! In our Bible story, Jesus was willing to **GO** to a lost and disliked tax collector’s home. Jesus was also willing to **GO** to the cross so we all might be saved! Jesus invites us to join Him and wants us to be willing to **GO** anywhere to share the Good News of Jesus!”

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** Say, “Thank you God for who You are! Your heart loves the world and everyone You created, even the people we don’t like. You were willing to GO to the cross so that we all can be saved. Help us to be willing to GO anywhere, even to difficult people, and share the Good News of who You are! Amen.”

## Release

If there is extra time, replay the game, finish the craft activity or recite the memory verse again.



# KIDS4MISSIONS!



## BONUS LESSON

*How is My Church Involved in the Great Commission?*



# How is My Church Involved in The Great Commission?

## Bible Passage

Matthew 28:16-20 (ICB)

## Big Idea

Jesus Calls me to the Great Commission!

## Focus Verse

<sup>13</sup> The Scripture says, “Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him. And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him. And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them. <sup>15</sup> And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent. It is written, “How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news.” Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)

## Lesson Materials

| Prayer Passport Activity Page 9 (1 per child) | Hole Punch | Crayons or Colored Pencils | Pens or Pencils | Mini Globe Stamp (See K4M Unit Preparation Guide.) |

## Greet

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- If you could travel to any country in the world, where would you go?
- Have you ever flown on an airplane? If so, what was it like?
- Do you know anyone who lives in another country? Where do they live?

## Worship

Choose from the following worship songs by Watoto Children’s Choir to supplement this unit’s lessons and to incorporate into your regularly scheduled kids’ ministry worship set:

“We Will Go”  
 “I Speak Jesus”  
 “Signs and Wonders”  
 “No One”  
 “Holding On”  
 “Sufficient”

Alternatively, you can supplement these lessons by playing common English praise and worship songs sung in different languages. We recommend the following:

“How Great is Our God” (World Edition)  
 “Océanos” —Hillsong en Español (Spanish)  
 “Ich rufe Hallelujah” —Alive Worship (German)  
 “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” —Sakhnini Brothers (Arabic)

## Pray

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** Say, “Dear God, we thank You that You want everyone to know who You are and to know Your salvation and love. Thank You for inviting us to the Great Commission. Help us to learn more today about how we can **GROW-GIVE-GO** where we are and give us give power to tell others about You, Jesus!”

## Review

**BACKGROUND:** Say, “For the past month, we have been learning about the **Great Commission!** This is the command Jesus gives to all of His disciples to **GROW-GIVE-GO**. He’s called us to share the Gospel and to make new disciples for Jesus where we live and all around the world. We learned that we will have to **GROW** in our knowledge of God’s heart for everyone in the world, even people who are very different from us. We also learned that Jesus invites us to **GIVE** our lives, our time, and our resource to share the Good News wherever we **GO!** Today, we are going to learn about how our church, the International Pentecostal Holiness Church [IPHC], is part of the Great Commission here in America and all around the world. It’s wonderful to know that only does **Jesus call me to the Great Commission**, but we are a part of a church that is actively involved in **Jesus’ call to the Great Commission!**”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “We will learn more later in our lesson, but let’s play a game together first!”

## Game

**MATERIALS:** None

**GAME GOAL:** To be the first student to reach the teacher.

### HOW TO PLAY:

1. Have students line up horizontally across a large room or space outside.



2. The teacher (or one student that the teacher selects) will yell, “Green Light, Go!” or “Red Light, Stop!” Students will go when teacher says “Go!” and freeze when teachers says “Stop!”
3. The first student to reach the teacher or the student giving commands will be declared the winner of the round and will be the one who shouts commands to the rest of the students for the next round of play.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great job playing the game everyone! You did a great job following instructions to stop or **GO!** We are learning that the Great Commission is our calling from Jesus to share the Gospel with anyone we meet everywhere we **GO!**”



### How Jesus Called My Church

Say, “Today we are finishing our Kids4Missions unit on the Great Commission! We have learned so much together this past month that **Jesus calls me to the Great Commission.** As followers of Jesus, we are all invited to **GROW-GIVE-GO** and make new disciples! What a wonderful invitation! Our church here is part of a global network of churches [a denomination] called the International Pentecostal Holiness Church [IPHC]. The IPHC started with a small group of people over 100 years ago in the state of North Carolina, and now we have churches in over 100 countries all around the world! This has happened because people said ‘yes’ to Jesus’ call to the Great Commission! Let’s read Matthew 28:16-20 in God’s Word to remind of us what the Great Commission is.” Read Matthew 28:16-20 (ICB) directly from your Bible.

**<sup>16</sup> The 11 followers went to Galilee. They went to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. <sup>17</sup> On the mountain they saw Jesus and worshiped him. But some of them did not believe that it was really Jesus. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. <sup>19</sup> So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach them to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world.”**

### How Jesus Grew the Church

Say, “After Jesus returned to heaven, His disciples waited to **GROW** in the power of the Holy Spirit and the knowledge of God’s heart for the entire world. After they were empowered by the Holy Spirit, they were willing to **GIVE** anything Jesus asked them and **GO** anywhere the Holy Spirit guided them. They shared the Gospel and made new disciples for Jesus. These new disciples were also empowered to **GROW-GIVE-GO** and accept the invitation to the Great Commission. This is how the global Church grew over time, and our church, the IPHC, started. It continues today because people were willing to **GROW-GIVE-GO!** Now, it’s our turn to be part of this great command!

### How Jesus Calls Me to Help Grow the Church

Say, “There are many ways we can participate in the Great Commission! We can **GROW** in our

knowledge of God’s heart for the people all around us, in our country, and throughout the world. There are many people who have never heard about Jesus and the Gospel. They’ve never heard the Good News and that He offers us never ending love and eternal life through His death and resurrection. Jesus calls us to **GIVE** our time to building friendships with those people near us, no matter their background. When we spend time with our friends, they can see Jesus’ love and salvation in the way we live. Jesus calls us to **GIVE** our time to praying for missionaries who travel to other places in the world. These missionaries live in other countries and share the Gospel with the people there.

**Say**, “Did you know that our church, IPHC, participates in the Great Commission by sending and supporting missionaries around the world? Our church also provides food and education for children all around the world. Over this next year, we will be learning about several exciting ways our church, the IPHC, is participating in the Great Commission. We will learn more ways we can **GROW-GIVE-GO** and participate in the Great Commission. We can help grow our church by sharing the hope of the Gospel and offer practical help to people here in America and across the world.”

**TRANSITION:** **Say**, “Isn’t it exciting to be in a church that participates in the Great Commission?”

## Discuss

### 1. **What is the network of churches that our local church is connected to?**

Response: The IPHC

### 2. **What does the Great Commission invite us to do?**

Response: GROW-GIVE-GO!

### 3. **How can we GROW?**

Response: Grow in our knowledge of God’s heart and mission for the people all around us and all over the world.

### 4. **How can we GIVE?**

Response: Answers will vary. Give our time to praying for missionaries and for the people of the world to hear the Gospel. Give to missionaries and special projects. Give anything Jesus asks us!

### 5. **Where can we GO?**

Response: We can share the Good News of Jesus to our family, friends and neighbors! And maybe one day even to another country in the world!

**TRANSITION:** **Say**, “Great discussion! Now, let’s add pages to our Prayer Passport to help us remember today’s lesson!”

## Kids4Missions Prayer Passport Craft

**MATERIALS:** *My Prayer Passport* Activity Page 9 (1 per child), Hole Punch, Crayons or Colored Pencils, Pens or Pencils, Mini Globe Stamp (See K4M Unit Preparation Guide.)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Give each student a *My Prayer Passport* Activity Page 9 and crayons or colored pencils.
2. Allow students time to color the picture of Orvie, our Kids4Missions mascot!
3. When students finish, help them punch holes in the left margins of page 9 and add it to their Prayer Passports with the brass fasteners.
4. Optional: Once students bind their pages, stamp page 9 of their Prayer Passports.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Wow! You guys did a wonderful job today! You can take your Prayer Passports home today!"

## Memory Verse

Say, "This month we are learning about the Great Commission! We are also learning an important verse to help remind us that **Jesus invites me to the Great Commission!** Let's review it again together!"

<sup>13</sup> **The Scripture says** [hold hands out like a book], "**Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved** [hold hands together in prayer]." <sup>14</sup> **But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him** [point to head with pointer fingers]. **And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him** [cup ear with hand]. **And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them** [point to mouth and extend out]. <sup>15</sup> **And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent** [point index finger outward]. **It is written, "How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news** [fan right hand over your face-ASL for beautiful]." **Romans 10:13-15 (ICB)** (hold hands out like a book)

## Reflect

Say, "It's so amazing that our church is part of the Great Commission. Our church is making disciples right here in our town and all around the world. Over the next year, we will keep learning more about IPHC missionaries and special projects that our church is part of. We will also learn how we can pray and help them. It's exciting that **Jesus calls us to the Great Commission** and we can be ready to say, 'YES!' whenever He asks us to **GROW-GIVE-GO!**"

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** Say, "*Thank you God that our church is part of the Great Commission! We pray for the missionaries our church sends all over the world to tell others about You. Help us, by the power of your Spirit, to tell others about you right here where we live. We want to make new disciples for you, Jesus, wherever you tell us to GO! Amen.*"

## Release

If there is extra time, replay the game, finish the craft activity or recite the memory verse again.