

Adventures with GOD!

THE GREAT COMMISSION (C.2.SPRING.1)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:8
Key Verse	Matthew 28:19
Key Concept	Jesus has given me a responsibility to share the good news of salvation with others.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain what the great commission was that Jesus gave his disciples. 2. Define what it means to be a disciple. 3. Write down 3 truths about Jesus that we can share with others.

Life application

Jesus' disciples received a mission to go and tell the world about Jesus' love and about the new life that God has made available to us. This is the same mission that we are given as Jesus' disciples today. We accept the mission knowing that God has promised to be with us. Today and throughout the trimester the children will have the opportunity to think about their participation in God's mission.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Drama		10 minutes
Bible exploration	Map, Bibles	15 minutes
Bible verse	Puzzle, scissors, markers	10 minutes
Project	Big sheets of paper, markers, etc.	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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INSTRUCTIONS

Note: This semester, one of the projects you will work on together is a mural that shares the story of the apostles and their missionary journeys. Make sure you have paper, tape, markers ready to begin this project.

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Matthew 28:16-20 twice and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

Drama: Ask for a few volunteers to help you act out a scene. You can use the following suggestion or come up with your own. The case is this: various children are playing outside, near a major street when they hear a "crash." They go to see what it is and find that there has been an accident and one car has hit the car in front of it. There are witnesses who saw the accident. The teacher comes and asks if the children were witnesses to what happened? Have one of the children share what they heard and saw.

Then spend some time talking about the word "witness." What do they think of when they hear the word "witness?" What does a witness do? In the Bible the disciples were considered

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witnesses. They saw and heard what Jesus did when he was on earth. And then he gave them the task of sharing or giving witness to others. They were to share with others about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. God was on a mission and the disciples were important witnesses.

Bible exploration: During the time that the disciples were with Jesus, they learned a lot and they were witnesses to the miracles he did and the lives he touched. Show some illustrations of Jesus and his life on earth. Ask them to remember some of the stories they've heard about Jesus.

That's why when Jesus left to be with the father, he gave them the responsibility of being witnesses and telling others about who Jesus was. Make two columns on the board or on a large piece of paper. Together read Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:8. On the right hand column write the following titles:

MISSION
MESSAGE
METHOD
POWER
PROMISE

Then, based on the Scripture text, have the children describe each of these categories. Here are some possible answers:

Mission – every Christian has the mission to make disciples of Christ.

Message – We share who Jesus was and what he has done for each of us and for the world

Method – Go out, teach people and baptize people

Power – the Holy Spirit gives us the power to carry out the mission.

Promise – Jesus promises to be with us always.

This great commission was given to the first disciples, but it continues to be our commission today as disciples of Christ. Spend some time creating an image to go on the mural for today.

Bible verse: In the following pages you will find an illustration to use to teach the Bible verse. It can be cut up and made into a puzzle.

Project: Booklet, "What I want you to know about Jesus." In this booklet the children will write the truths they know about Jesus, who he was and what he did, and what it matters to us. You will find some ideas for this project in the following pages.



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Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story)

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead)

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week)

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen



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DEFINITION

DISCIPLE

A DISCIPLE IS A PERSON WHO FOLLOWS HIS OR HER TEACHER.

On the board or a large piece of paper, right out the word “disciple” vertically (to make an acrostic). Have the children define the word in 8 short phrases/words that begin with each of the letters in the word “disciple.” For example:

Dedicated to God

Inspired by God

Sincere

Convinced

Interested in learning

Patient

Light

Equally read to share with others



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PROJECT BOOKLET

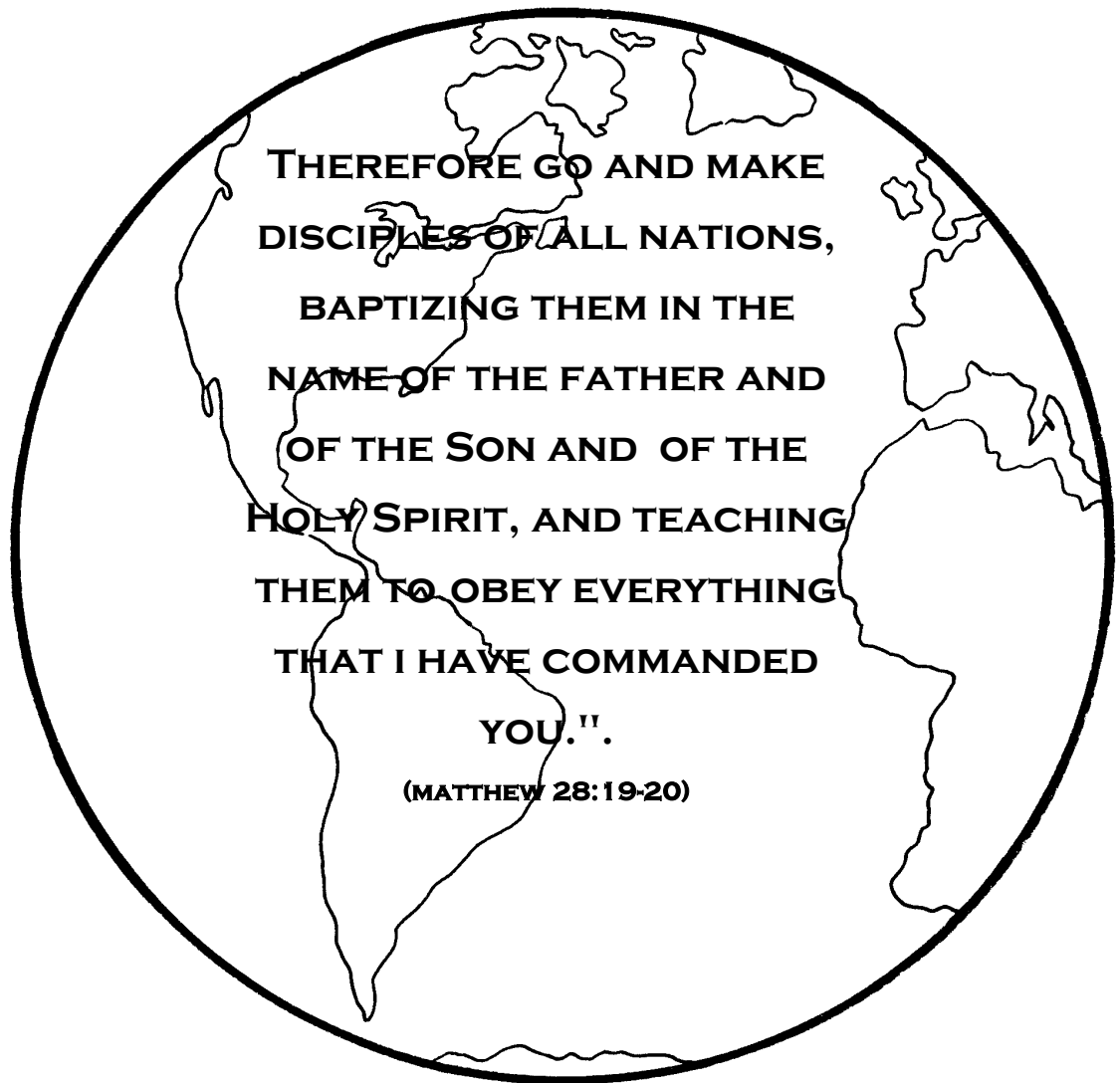
Materials: paper, crayons or markers

- Instructions:
1. Put 2 pieces of paper together and then fold them, like you are making a booklet.
 2. On the outside write the title, "What I want you to know about Jesus"
 3. On the inside, write one truth about Jesus on every page of the booklet. For example: Jesus loves us, Jesus and the Father are one, Jesus rose from the dead, etc.
 4. Ask them to include a Bible verse with each truth. Help them find the verses. Or show them how to use a concordance.
 5. Have the draw a picture for each page.



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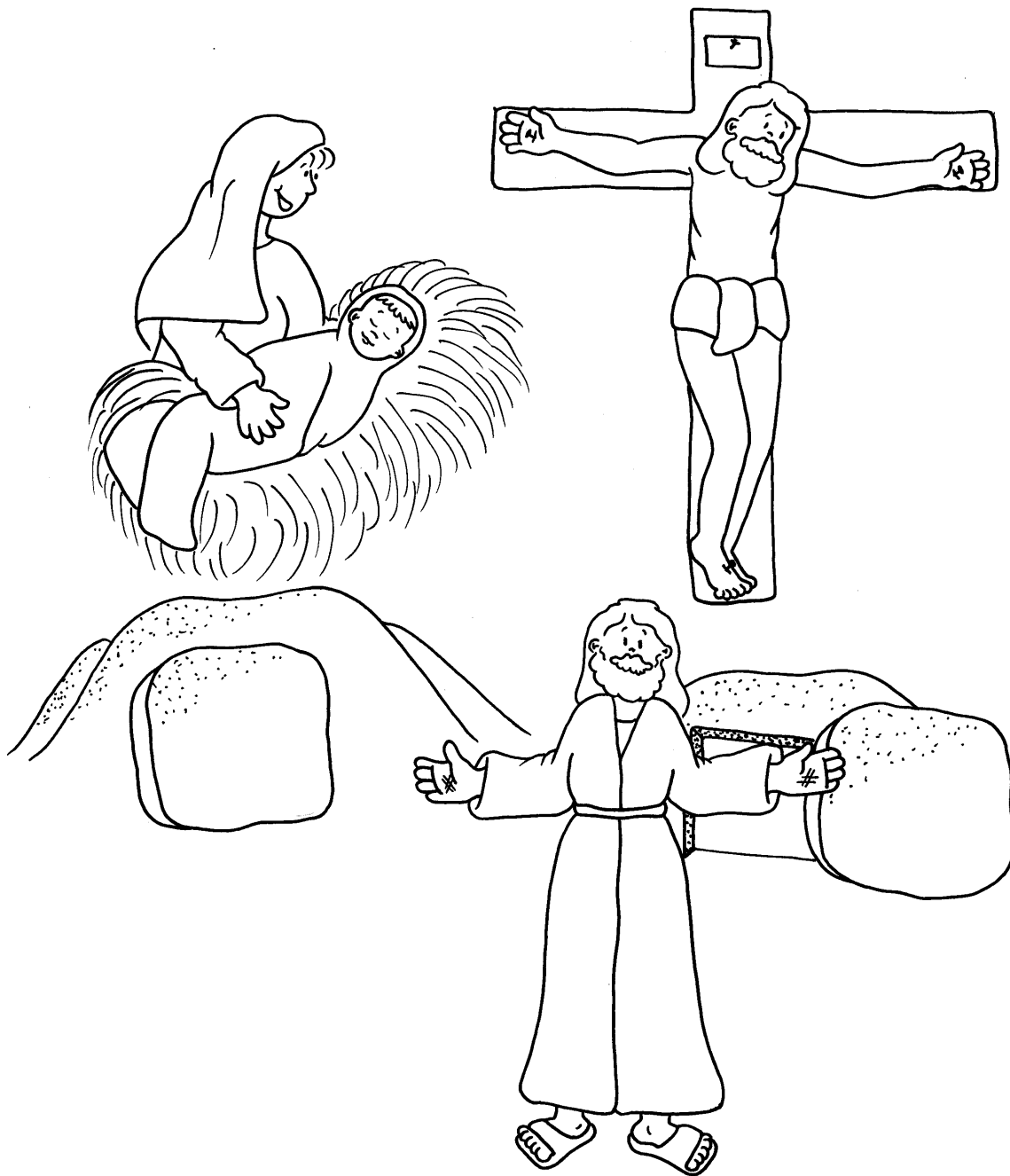
BIBLE VERSE



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ILLUSTRATIONS

THE LIFE OF JESUS



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