



## THE GOSPEL PROJECT SR. UNIT 27 Lesson 4: Jesus gives the great commission

Date: Sunday February 10, 2019 Teachers: Susan Dunk

Bible Passage: **Matthew 28:16-20**

Main Point: Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission.

Key Passage: **Matthew 28:20** Big Picture Question: What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.

NCC Question 34 Susan

Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?

Yes, so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

**OPENING: Option 1 "Complete the crossword" materials: ( crossword sheet)**

**Option 2 Form groups of four or five kids. Give each kid an index card and pencil. Instruct kids to write the name of an occupation on their cards. (doctor, firefighter, and so forth)**

Players should stick the cards to their foreheads and then take turns asking yes-or-no questions to figure out the job on their cards. When kids all figure out their jobs, give the following descriptions and challenge them to guess the job:

Go and make disciples of all nations.

Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Teach them to observe everything Jesus commanded.

Say • The job I described is follower of Jesus. Jesus told His followers that they had a special job to do. We will hear more in today's Bible story.

We talk about Jesus' final words on the cross... "It is finished." Does this mean there is nothing left for us to do? No! There is nothing left for us to earn our position before God, that is decided by faith in Jesus Christ. However Jesus ended his earthly ministry with this command and commission....something for us to do!

**MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 28:19* "Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."**

### INTRO TO LESSON:

Take a look back at all of these stories we have heard from the Bible. All of these shorter stories fit together to tell one greater story. Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Call for responses.] That's right! **The Bible is about God's plan to send His Son into the world to rescue people from sin.**

The Old Testament tells us about God's promises to His people. The people waited so long for God to send a Savior, and then He finally did! Jesus came into the world as a baby. He grew up and taught people about God. He died on the cross for our sins, and then rose from the dead on the third day!

Then Jesus appeared to His disciples and to many other people. Today's Bible story is about what Jesus told His followers to do. Let's check it out.

Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas so that he would believe. Jesus wanted Thomas to believe He is alive, but Jesus said those of us who believe in Him without seeing Him are blessed. Then Jesus appeared again to Peter

and some of the other disciples who thought they needed to go back to fishing. Jesus forgave Peter and gave him a mission. In today's Bible story, Jesus met with His disciples on a mountain where He gave them the Great Commission.

### **BIBLE STORY: (video)**

### **BIBLE STORY REVIEW: ()**

Invite all the children to stand. Ask one student a question. If he answers correctly, move on to the next child and ask another question. If the first student answers incorrectly, he must sit down and the next child has an opportunity to answer the question. Continue asking questions until only a few children are left standing.

#### **Questions:**

**Where did the disciples meet with Jesus?** (a mountain, Matt. 28:16)

**Some worshiped when they saw Jesus, but what did others do?** (doubted, Matt. 28:17)

**What had been given to Jesus in heaven and on earth?** (all authority, Matt. 28:18)

**What was the job Jesus had for His disciples?** (Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything He has commanded them; Matt. 28:19)

**What was the last thing Jesus told them?** (He would be with them, Matt. 28:20)

**Who gives us the power to share the Gospel?** (the Holy Spirit)

**What is our mission? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.**

Say • After Jesus died on the cross and rose again on the third day, God glorified Him and made Him the ruler over all things. Jesus, our King forever, commanded His followers to go into the whole world to tell everyone what He had done for them. We cannot earn God's love, but He gave it to us freely through Jesus. We can be sons and daughters of God because Jesus made the way to be forgiven and receive new life from God!

Jesus wants everyone to hear about Him and have the chance to believe in Him and be saved. That's why Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission—and it still applies to us today!

### **DISCUSSION VIDEO:**

Have you ever read a book, seen a movie, or watched a TV show about a secret agent with a special mission? Think about that as you watch this video.

Show the "Unit 27, Session 4" discussion starter video. Discuss with your group ways the Great Commission is similar to a secret mission. In what ways is the Great Commission different from a secret mission? Why isn't the Great Commission a secret?

Leader • God loves all people, and the Bible tells us that He doesn't want anyone to be lost. (1 Peter 3:9) God's plan for the world is that His people—believers—would spread the gospel to the whole world. Two big reasons we do not keep the gospel a secret are that Jesus commanded us to share it, and when we know how good Jesus is, we will want to share news of Him with others.

**ACTIVITY: “Take the gospel” materials: map of the world or globe.**

Post a world map where kids can see it. Invite kids to sit in a circle with you. Start the game by saying, “Let’s take the gospel to …” and then say the name of a country. (For example, “Let’s take the gospel to Bolivia.”) The kid to your right should say, “Let’s take the gospel to …” and then name another country and the country you chose. (“Let’s take the gospel to Algeria and Bolivia.”) Continue “traveling” around the circle, adding to the list of countries. When kids can’t recall all the countries, encourage previous players to remind them of the countries they chose. You may also choose to start again.

Say • Everyone in the world needs to hear the good news about Jesus. Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission, and Jesus calls all believers to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. More than 7 billion people live on earth. That’s a big job!

Some of us might travel as missionaries, and others of us might support missionaries or share the gospel right in our own neighborhoods. That might sound overwhelming, but Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to help us on our mission of making disciples.

**THE BIBLE STORY**

Jesus Gave the Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

After Jesus had been raised from the dead, He met with His disciples over the next 40 days. During that time, Jesus told them even more about God’s kingdom. Then Jesus’ eleven disciples went to a mountain in Galilee. Jesus had told them to go there. When the disciples saw Jesus, some of them worshiped Him. But some of the disciples still doubted.

Then Jesus went up to them and said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” Jesus is God the Son; He always had authority. But after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, God gave Him all authority in heaven and on earth. Jesus is the King over all creation, and He rules over God’s kingdom.

Jesus gave the disciples—and everyone who follows Him—a job to do. He said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel. Make disciples of people from every nation.” A disciple is a follower. Jesus wants His followers to tell people all over the world how to be rescued from sin and death by trusting in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Then those people who believe would become disciples of Jesus too.

Jesus also said, “Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” New disciples are cleansed from sin by Jesus’ blood. When believers are baptized, they show the world that they have turned away from sin and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

Jesus continued, “Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Disciples who love Jesus will want to obey Him. Then Jesus said, “Remember this: I am always with you, until the very end of the age.”

***Christ Connection: The good news about what Jesus has done to rescue us from our sins is too great to keep to ourselves. Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave the disciples a job to do. Jesus wants His followers to teach people everywhere about Jesus so they will trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.***