



# 6

## The Great Commission

### Key Theme

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- God reconciles sinners to Himself through the gospel of Christ.

### Key Passages

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- Matthew 28:18–20; 1 Corinthians 15:1, 15:3–5; Romans 1:16, 10:13–15

### Objectives

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Students will be able to:

- Explain the Great Commission.
- Explain the importance of obeying the Great Commission.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

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Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a partner or to the teacher.



### Activity 1: The Great Commission Class Notes

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Students will fill out The Great Commission Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

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Jesus's last command to His followers was that they preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations. All believers share in that same responsibility and are called to go to all nations with the gospel of truth. This is important because the gospel is the good news, and it alone can bring eternal life.



### Activity 2: Truth Be Told Review Game

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Students will review the lesson by playing the Truth Be Told Review Game.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student
- Pencils



### THE GREAT COMMISSION CLASS NOTES

- Print one The Great Commission Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- The Great Commission Class Notes for each student
- The Great Commission Answer Key
- Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one copy of the four Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM for use during the lesson.
- Attach the Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster, found in your curriculum kit, to the wall.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Four Lesson Illustrations
- Tape or poster putty
- Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster



### TRUTH BE TOLD REVIEW GAME

- Assemble the Truth Be Told Game Board Posters found in your curriculum kit.
- Print the Truth Be Told Game Components from the Resource DVD-ROM. Keep the Truth Be Told Question Answer Key for your use.
- Cut apart the Truth Be Told Number Cards. These will determine how many spaces to move. OR bring in dice or a game spinner to be used to move teams around the board.
- Cut apart the Truth Be Told Question Cards.

- Truth Be Told Game Board
- Truth Be Told Number Cards OR use dice or a game spinner
- Truth Be Told Question Cards
- Truth Be Told Question Answer Key
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team
- Poster putty



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.

- Memory Verse Poster



## Memory Verse

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



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

Jesus Christ was delivered up according to the determined purpose of God. He was crucified, put to death, and then raised from the dead (Acts 2:23–24). Through His Resurrection, Jesus destroyed the final enemy—that is death (1 Corinthians 15:26). Now those who believe in Him shall never die (John 11:26).

Jesus appeared to His followers after His Resurrection. In fact, the Bible records no less than ten times that Jesus was seen after He rose. He showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs (Acts 1:3). The Apostle Paul summarized some of these appearances when He wrote that Jesus was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve, then by over 500, then by James, and then by all the apostles (1 Corinthians 15:3–7).

For 40 days Jesus continued to show Himself, teach, and prepare His followers for life without His physical presence. When it finally came time for Him to return to His Father, He gave His parting instructions. This is what is now known as the Great Commission. What was Jesus's message?

He began by once again confirming His authority—ALL authority has been given to Him in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). He was crucified for claiming He was God (John 10:30–31). And this statement declared His claim to be true! Jesus the Messiah is the Great I AM (John 8:58). He is Lord over the entire universe.

He then told His followers to “make disciples.” This is a call that includes evangelism—proclaiming the gospel to others—as well as teaching and guiding these disciples to observe all that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:20). And this is a commission to ALL believers through the ages. How critical it is that we obey it. We know that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13). But how will anyone call on the Lord if they do not believe in Him? And how will they believe in Him if they have not heard of Him (Romans 10:14)? We must proclaim the truth to unbelievers. The Bible tells us that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). We are to be bold and not ashamed of the gospel. It is the gospel that is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). Without the truth of the gospel, people will perish in their sins.

Jesus told His followers to baptize the disciples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

(Matthew 28:19.) This external baptism by water is a picture of what happens when people trust in Christ. They die with Christ, are buried with Christ, and are raised to newness of life (Romans 6:4).

Scripture also talks about another baptism. This baptism comes through the Holy Spirit to all believers who are united with Christ through faith in the gospel. This is an internal baptism by which the Holy Spirit makes believers new creations in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is often referred to as being “born again” by the Holy Spirit (John 3:6–7). This baptism seals believers with the Holy Spirit of promise assuring them that they are guaranteed the inheritance that Christ purchased to the praise of the glory of God (Ephesians 1:13–14)!

And the Great Commission does not stop there! It continues beyond a new believer's repentance and faith. You see, a new Christian is like a newborn—unskilled in the Word of righteousness (Hebrews 5:13). There is a new life in their soul, with amazing potential to learn and grow in wisdom and knowledge of the truth. These new believers are to be molded by the truth and trained to do all that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:20). Those older and more mature in the faith are to instruct the younger Christians so they will continue to grow and bear fruit for the Lord (2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 2:3).

Jesus ended His Great Commission with a promise that gives the encouragement and strength necessary to boldly fulfill His command. He told His disciples, and He tells us, “Lo! I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” We can be assured and confident of this promise as we strive to fulfill the Great Commission in our own lives.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

If you've ever been to a missionary conference, no doubt the Great Commission was read aloud or written on a banner. This is the church's marching orders—to make disciples of all nations. Sometimes we think that this was a new idea that Jesus instituted, when in reality, God's heart has always been for the nations. God's covenant with Israel in the Old Testament wasn't for their sake alone. No, God had always intended that Israel would be a light to the nations (Isaiah 42:6, 49:6, 60:3). As we look at the Old Testament, there are many clear passages that show this to be true.

As early as Genesis, God's intent to use the nation of Israel as a catalyst to spread His Word to all the world is clear. The judgment for the Tower of Babel scattered

people across the earth, and nations were formed. This was followed by God's promise to Abram that through him and his seed "all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). God would use Abraham, the father of Israel, in a way that would be a means of blessing all the nations; from his seed, Jesus Christ would come and provide redemption to the world. This promise of worldwide blessing was later restated to Abraham: "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice" (Genesis 18:18, 22:18). The same promise was then given to Isaac (Genesis 26:4) and then to Jacob as the father of the 12 tribes of Israel (Genesis 28:14). The world would be blessed through Abraham's seed.

God's desire and heart was not just for Israel. But He would use Israel, and His Word to them, to proclaim truth across the earth. We see in many of the psalms that all nations would be included in the praise and worship of the Lord God of Israel. One in particular is Psalm 67. The universal nature of this psalm proclaims that God's way will be known on ALL the earth and His salvation among ALL nations (Psalm 67:2). The psalmist goes on to plead that ALL the peoples will praise God, that ALL the nations will be glad and sing for joy (Psalm 67:3-4)!

We know that Israel was God's chosen nation. And yet God was jealous for all the peoples of the earth—both Jews and Gentiles—that they would worship His name. It is hard to miss the many Gentiles God spoke of in the Old Testament. These men and women were known to be followers of the one true God of Israel. We encounter people like Melchizedek, the king of Salem (Genesis 14:18); Jethro of Midian, Moses's father-in-law (Exodus 3:1); Rahab, the harlot in Jericho (Joshua 2:1); Ruth of Moab (Ruth 1:4); the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:9); and many others like them. These people from many nations responded to the good news of God's reign. And who can forget God sending Jonah to take the message of repentance to the cruel Assyrians of Nineveh? The people of that pagan city believed God, repented of their sins, and turned to the one, true, holy God (Jonah 3:5-10).

You see, God did not ordain that Israel alone would receive the blessing of salvation through the Mes-

siah. No, God called Israel and put her into service to spread His name to the nations of the earth. The decisive fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham—that the nations of the earth would be blessed through his seed—was accomplished in the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the "seed of Abraham." God's plan was that through Jesus Christ ALL people—including those from the most pagan nations—can become sons of Abraham and heirs of all his blessings through faith in Jesus Christ.

So when Jesus left His followers with the Great Commission, He was continuing the purpose of His Father that the everlasting gospel would be preached to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—that they would fear God and give Him glory, and that they would forever worship Him who made heaven and earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

Now and always, Christians have the great privilege and the solemn responsibility to take the message of the gospel to the nations of the world. Matthew 28:18-20 is not called the Great Suggestion, but the Great Commission. May we be found faithful.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, I praise you. Your name is above all names. You've told us to go and make disciples. How will they know, if we don't tell them? Make us bold, Lord, to speak of you to neighbors and friends. Help us to love others enough to share the truth of the gospel with them. Move in my heart and in the hearts of my students to seek eternal treasures. Keep us from being ashamed or embarrassed of your Word, and make us evangelists to a lost world. Please draw the students in my class to know you through repentance and faith. And then put a fire in them by the power of the Holy Spirit to go into all the world and make disciples. To you be all the glory!



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## The Great Commission Class Notes

### MATERIALS

- The Great Commission Class Notes for each student
- The Great Commission Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the crossword puzzle as you study the lesson.*

*The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.*

We will be working on these class notes as we study the Bible today. Do not work ahead. We'll finish these notes together.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we do the class notes today, we will see what Jesus's last command to His disciples was and why it's important for us to follow it, too.



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

*Refer to Lesson 5 Lesson Theme Poster.* Jesus Christ rose from the dead! This is such good news! Jesus IS the resurrection and the life! Because He lives, we can live, too, if we turn away from our sins and turn to Jesus for forgiveness. Jesus gives every believer a "living hope." That's the hope of eternal life with Jesus. Our bodies will die someday, but if we are believers, we will go to live with Jesus.

Remember, right after Jesus rose from the dead, He wanted His followers to know He was alive again! So, He met with them many times after His death. Jesus stayed on earth with His disciples for forty days after His Resurrection. He kept teaching the disciples, so they would be ready for the time when He would finally leave the earth and return to His Father in heaven. During this time, Jesus gave them a very important command that we call the Great Commission.

That is what we are going to read about today. What is this Great Commission? What did Jesus tell them to do? Let's read from Matthew 28:18–20 where Jesus spoke to the disciples after He had risen. Listen carefully as I read and I'll ask questions about it. *Read Matthew 28:18–20.*

## Matthew 28:18–20

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

## SOVEREIGN

*(Refer to Attributes Poster)*

➤ As you teach this verse, you may want to explain your church's position on baptism, how it is performed, and what it signifies.

### EXAMINE THE WORD

Let's answer a few questions about these verses, so we can understand them better.

#### Observe the Text

- ? First of all, who is speaking in these verses? Did you hear it? *Matthew 28:18. Jesus.*
- ? That's right. Jesus is speaking to His disciples. He told them that something had been given to Him. What was that? *Re-read Matthew 28:18. All authority.*
- ? Jesus said He had all authority. Where is His authority? *Re-read Matthew 28:18. In heaven and on earth.*
- ? Yes! Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. He has full control of everything. This shouldn't surprise us. After all, who is Jesus? *God.*  
*Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Yes. Jesus is sovereign. He has power and control over everything in heaven and on earth.*
- ? Jesus told His disciples to go and do something. What was that? *Re-read Matthew 28:19. Go and make disciples.*
- ? Hmm! Jesus was talking to His disciples. And He told them to go and make more disciples. What is a disciple? *Allow discussion. A follower of Jesus Christ. A believer. All who believe in Jesus and follow Him are His disciples.*
- ? Jesus was talking to His followers. And He told them to go and make more followers. Where did Jesus say they should go? Listen as I read again. *Re-read Matthew 28:19. To all nations.*
- ? So, they were told to go to all nations, make disciples, and baptize them. But there's more. What else were they supposed to do? Listen again! *Re-read Matthew 28:20. Teach them.*
- ? Yes. They were supposed to teach people. And what did Jesus want them to teach to people in all nations? *Re-read Matthew 28:20. To observe the things that He commanded.*

You see, Jesus had been with His disciples for three years before He died, teaching them many things. Now it was their turn to go and tell others what Jesus had taught them. They were supposed to tell people around the world all about Jesus and how to live a life that pleases God by doing what He commands.

- ? Jesus would be leaving them soon. He was going to go back to His Father in heaven. But what did Jesus promise His followers? *Re-read Matthew 28:20b. He would be with them always.*
- ? This was a simple and clear command. Let's review really quickly. Will someone read #1 on your class notes? *Assign a reader. Make. Have students complete #1.*
- ? And will someone read #2? What was one thing the disciples were to do? *Assign a reader. Teach. Have students complete #2.*
- ? Where were they supposed to go? Someone read #3. *Assign a reader. All. Have students complete #3.*
- ? And what about #4? What did Jesus promise? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #4.*

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we have written these lessons for you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, please encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. And if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

## Discover the Truth

Jesus wanted more people to know about Him and believe in Him. He wanted His church to grow. Now, in this case, when we say "church," we're not talking about a building. We're talking about all those who believe in Jesus Christ. People who believe in Jesus all over the world make up His church. So, Jesus told His disciples to go to all the nations and tell others all about Him and His life. The disciples were to teach them to do what Jesus commanded. This was what Jesus told them to do! Jesus was leaving soon—they would no longer see Him or walk with Him. But Jesus promised something! He promised to be with them always.



## READ THE WORD

Jesus wanted people in all nations to know about Him. He wanted the disciples to go out and preach the gospel—the good news about Jesus Christ. This is how the church would grow—many people would hear about Jesus, believe, and then tell others.

The gospel is simple. We know that it is the good news about Jesus, but there are different parts of the gospel that are all important to understand.

In 1 Corinthians 15:1–5, a man named Paul wrote about these four important parts of the gospel. We'll talk more about Paul later on. Right now, I'm going to give these four Lesson Illustrations to some of you. Hold on to them until I tell you to bring them up. Let's take a closer look at the four parts of the gospel. *Read 1 Corinthians 15:1 emphasizing "gospel."*

**EXAMINE THE WORD****Observe the Text**

? The Apostle Paul is speaking in these verses. He is talking to some of the followers of Jesus Christ. What was he declaring, or telling, these people?  
*The gospel.*

Yes. Paul had preached the gospel to these people. In these verses, Paul tells us the four parts of the gospel.

Let's look at each part. Listen to these verses. *Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–5.*

? What is the first part of the gospel? Listen for it while I read. *Re-read 1 Corinthians 15:3. Christ died for our sins.*

? Who has Picture #1? Bring that up and put it on the board. *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #1 to the board with tape or poster putty.*

God had a plan from the beginning. He promised that a Savior would come and die for the sins of His people. It was written many times in the Old Testament Scriptures. And Jesus Christ did come and die just like the Scriptures said.

? And then Paul mentioned something else. What is the second thing he said? *Re-read 1 Corinthians 15:4. Jesus was buried.*

? Who has Picture #2? Bring it up and put it on the board. *Have student add Lesson Illustration #2 to the board.*

Jesus died for sins, and then He was buried in a tomb. But that wasn't the end, right?

? There are two more parts to the gospel. What is the third part? Listen. *Re-read 1 Corinthians 15:4. He rose again on the third day.*

? Yes! Jesus didn't stay dead. He is the resurrection and the life! Who has Picture #3? Put that picture on the board. *Have the student add Lesson Illustration #3 to the board.*

? And now for the fourth part of the gospel. How do we know Jesus rose from the grave? Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:5. Listen for the answer. *Re-read 1 Corinthians 15:5. He was seen by Cephas (Peter) and the twelve (apostles).*

? Who has Picture #4? Put that one up for us, please. *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #4 to the board.*

Jesus was seen by many after He rose from the dead. He spent time with them and talked to them. Paul goes on to list many people who saw Jesus after He rose from the dead. That's part of the gospel, too!

**Discover the Truth**

This is what Jesus wanted His followers to tell others around the world. Jesus wanted all nations to know about Him! *Refer to Lesson Illustrations.* He

**1 Corinthians 15:3–5**

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) emphasizing the answers to the questions you are asking of the text.

wanted them to know the gospel—that He came to die for sinners, He was buried, He rose from the grave, and He was seen by many after He rose. This all happened just like the Bible said it would.

As I said earlier, the gospel is simple, but it has several parts to it. These four parts, together, are the gospel. But in order for this gospel to save people, sinners need to repent of their sins and believe that all of this is true, all four parts.



## READ THE WORD

Jesus was talking to His disciples when He gave the command to go and make disciples. But it is something all believers—followers of Jesus—should take seriously. It isn't always easy to do, but God gave some encouraging advice to those of us who might be nervous or afraid to share the gospel.

Listen to another verse written by Paul. It's Romans 1:16. This is the memory verse we will start in a couple weeks. So we are getting a sneak peek at the poster!

Let's read the verse together from the Memory Verse Poster. *Read Romans 1:16. Say each word one at a time allowing the class to repeat after you.*

Romans 1:16

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? First of all, what is this verse about? *The gospel of Christ.*  
Yes. Paul was writing about the gospel. And he wanted everyone to know that he was NOT ashamed, or embarrassed, of it.
- ? Why was Paul so bold and not ashamed? Whose power is seen in the gospel? *Re-read Romans 1:16. The power of God.*
- ? Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. It is the power of God! What does the power of God give? *Romans 1:16. Salvation.*
- ? And who gets that salvation through the gospel? *Re-read Romans 1:16. Everyone who believes.*
- ? What does this salvation bring to believers? *Allow discussion. Forgiveness, eternal life, heaven.*

➤ Refer to the Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster from Lessons 8–13.

When we ask Jesus for salvation, we're asking Him to save us from the punishment for sin. Salvation brings forgiveness of sins to everyone who believes the gospel. And that forgiveness brings eternal life! Believers in Jesus have a living hope—they know that they will go to heaven. They will not face God's wrath, or punishment, for their sins.

That is why we must not be ashamed, or embarrassed, of the gospel! That is why Jesus commanded that we preach the gospel to all nations! The gospel brings salvation—forgiveness of sin and the hope of eternal life.

? Let's take a look at the class notes before we move on. Will someone read #5 please? *Assign a reader. Ashamed. Have students complete #5.*

? And will someone read #6? How will you finish that? *Assign a reader. God. Have students complete #6.*

## Romans 10:13–15

Great! Now let's read something else Paul wrote in Romans 10:13–15. Here Paul tells us why it is so important to obey the Great Commission—to go and preach the gospel. Let's read it. *Read Romans 10:13–15 with enthusiasm.*

? All who call on Jesus, turn away from their sins, and put their faith in Him will be saved, right? *Right.*

? But can they call on Jesus if they don't believe in Him? *No.*

? Can they believe in Him if they never hear about Him? *No.*

? And how can they hear about Him? *Someone has to tell them the truth.*

That's right. People can't hear the gospel of Jesus unless someone goes and tells them about it. And that's what Jesus was telling His disciples to go and do.

The Bible tells us that God is happy when we preach the gospel and share the truth of Jesus's life, death, burial, and Resurrection!

### Discover the Truth

Jesus gave the Great Commission to His followers—to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey all the things Jesus taught them. This command is for all believers to do! People can know the truth about Jesus only if someone tells them about it! We never need to be ashamed of the gospel. If we know Jesus Christ and believe in Him for salvation, we should want to tell others about Him. We should not be afraid to tell how He is the only way for sinners to have eternal life.

? **OK. Let's finish our class notes. Will someone read #7?** *Assign a reader. Hear. Have students complete #7.*

? **And what about #8. Will someone read that?** *Assign a reader. Tells. Have students complete #8.*

? **And what about #9? Someone read it.** *Assign a reader. Truth. Have students complete #9.*

*If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.*



## Truth Be Told Review Game

### MATERIALS

- Truth Be Told Game Board
- Truth Be Told Question Cards
- Truth Be Told Question Answer Key
- Truth Be Told Number Cards (or other means to determine spaces to be moved for correct answers)
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team
- Poster putty

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Divide your class into teams. Teams will take turns drawing a Truth Be Told Question Card. Team members will take turns answering the questions. They will quickly determine an answer and give it. If they are correct, they will draw a Truth Be Told Number Card and move that number of spaces on the game board. As play proceeds, follow the directions on the game board. Alternate between teams as long as time permits.*

We are going to review now by playing "Truth Be Told." I'll put you into teams. Teams will take turns picking a question card and answering the question. If the answer is correct, you will draw a number card and move your game piece that many spaces. All directions on the board must be followed. Place used cards underneath the stacks.

*Answers to the questions are provided on the Truth Be Told Question Answer Key on the Resource DVD-ROM.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Jesus left His followers with one last important command. He wanted them to spread the good news of the gospel to the whole world, teaching others what He had taught them. Jesus wanted them to tell the gospel so others would believe in Him and have eternal life.





# Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

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

*If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class.*

## MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Poster

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Using the Memory Verse Poster, point to each word as you say it and have the students repeat.*

*After the review, divide the entire class into two groups. You can do boys and girls to start and then mix it up by age, by hair color, oldest or youngest in the family, etc. You will say a word or phrase of the memory verse while doing some sort of action— sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch your toes, etc. The groups will “echo” what you say and do as you continue through the verse. Repeat several times. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. Change it up. This will help them learn.*

**We’re going to practice our memory verse. I’m going to point to the words on the poster, and you repeat after me.** *After reviewing from the poster, move on to the echoing game.*

Now, we’re going to play our echoing game. Let’s divide the class into two groups. I want Group 1 to echo what I say and do, then Group 2 will echo until we are all the way through our verse. Follow my actions and repeat my words as we go! Stand up and get ready now.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The word *gospel* means “good news.” Refer to Lesson Illustrations on the board. What four parts of the good news did we talk about today that we can share with others? Jesus died for sinners. Jesus was buried. Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus was seen by many after He rose.

Right! And Jesus wants us to take this message, the gospel, to others everywhere we go.

Let’s say the verse together one more time.  
*Repeat verse together.*



# Applying God’s Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster.* Jesus commanded His followers to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. If you are a follower of Jesus—that means you have turned away from your sins and turned to Jesus for forgiveness—it means He is your Lord, the one you follow and obey. This command is for you, too! He wants ALL of His followers to share the gospel and make disciples everywhere they go.

This is a very important responsibility. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news. It is the only truth. And it is the only way sinners can have forgiveness and eternal life after they die. If we love God and love others, we will want everyone to know Him, too! If our neighbors, friends, family, and even people in distant lands don't hear about Jesus, how will they know that He is the only way to eternal life?

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

You might be thinking that what Jesus commanded isn't for kids. But even kids can tell others about God's Word and what it says about Jesus. You don't have to be a pastor of a church to preach the gospel. You don't have to be a missionary who goes far away to tell people about Jesus. Even kids can tell somebody the good news of the gospel!

Jesus said to go make disciples of all the nations. That means around the world. But it also means the people we know, right here in our own community, to know Jesus better. God has put people in your life who need to know more about Him—like your friends, neighbors, and classmates.

? Refer to *Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster*. Why is the gospel important? Romans 1:16 tells us. Let's read that verse again together from the Memory Verse Poster. Read *Romans 1:16*.

Remember, the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. But people must hear it before they can believe it.

Refer to *Matthew 28:19 Memory Verse Poster*. That's why Jesus commanded all believers—young and old—to share the truth with others! We are to go and make disciples! Let's read the Matthew 28:19 memory verse together. You should know this by heart. This is Jesus's command to all believers. Read or recite *Matthew 28:19* together.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



### MEMORY VERSE

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



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God because He loved us enough to send Jesus who gave His life, so that we can live!
- Ask God for courage and love, so that we can follow Jesus's command to make disciples by telling others about Him.

