

GOD'S MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: PURPOSE

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Matthew 4:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; John 15:16; Acts 1:6-8; Romans 10:14-15; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Titus 2:12-15

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.”

BIG IDEAS

- Every Jesus follower is a disciple who makes disciples.
- We make disciples as we are going.
- We make disciples by sharing the gospel.
- We are to help make disciples of all people groups.
- We make disciples through the power and presence of Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 16:11-34

As Jesus' disciples spread the gospel in the world, they made disciples of those who believed in Jesus. All of Jesus' followers are to make disciples of all who believe.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God has given us a holy mission to make Him known to others



Every child should feel:

- Burdened for those in their lives who do not know Jesus



Every child should:

- Share the gospel with someone who does not know Jesus



Every child should want:

- To live faithfully on mission for God and be aligned with His purposes instead of our own

FAMILY DEVOTION: GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

Living for Jesus means joining God's mission. God's mission is to spread the gospel to all of the world and He uses His followers to do that.

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Jesus commanded His followers to teach others what He taught.

- Before Jesus returned to Heaven, He gave a specific command to His followers.
- He commanded His followers to be like Him.
- In order for His disciples to be like Him, they must teach as Jesus taught.
- Everything that Jesus taught His followers, His disciples are to teach others.
- This command is for every person who is a follower of Jesus.

Following Jesus means teaching others about Him and how to live for Him.

- Every person who believes in Jesus is His follower.
- When we follow Jesus, we will obey His command to teach others.
- Teaching others means living like Jesus before them and teaching them all that He taught and all that is given to us in His Word.
- In order to make disciples, we must teach others like Jesus taught.
- Today, we can teach others by knowing God's Word and teaching it to others.

Jesus is with His followers as they fulfill His mission.

- We will not fulfill this mission alone.
- Jesus made a promise to be with His followers always and He kept that promise.
- No person who believes in Jesus is alone. Each believer receives the Holy Spirit to help guide him or her through every situation.
- We can teach God's Word to others and make disciples because God's Spirit is always with us giving us power to do so.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 16:11-34

Paul's Missionary Journeys

Opening Illustration:

Make a “Pearl of Great Price” by folding a small white paper plate in half. Using paint, crayons or markers color the outside of the plate gray and the inside pink to resemble an oyster. Glue a copy of the Bible verse for the week inside the oyster along with a small white bead as the pearl. After the children finish making their oysters, help them think of the different things that God offers us in place of our sin, such as joy instead of emptiness, a new eternity instead of our sinful life, etc. Lead the children in a discussion about how God offers us many things that are better and perfect compared to our sinful choices.

BIG IDEA: EVERY JESUS FOLLOWER IS A DISCIPLE WHO MAKES DISCIPLES.¹**Jesus set the example of how we should live as His followers.**

- During Jesus' ministry on the earth, He lived perfectly so that we can see how we should live.
- Jesus is the example of whom we should strive to be like and how we should live our lives on this earth.
- Jesus showed us how to obey God perfectly and how to serve and love others.
- Paul, Silas, and Timothy learned how to live for God by following Jesus' example.



Have the children define the word "disciple." Next, ask the children to name some ways that Jesus followers can show others how to be like Jesus. Remind the children that Jesus followers are disciples themselves who make disciples.

Being a part of God's mission means being like Jesus.

- When we believe in Jesus, we join in God's mission.
- Our faith in Jesus makes us a part of God's family and we work together with other believers to live out God's mission in the world.
- When we strive to fulfill God's mission, we will seek to be like Jesus who lived out God's mission perfectly.
- When we are making Christ-likeness our goal, we will bring God glory because Jesus brought God glory perfectly.

God's mission of making disciples means showing others how to be like Christ.

- In order to make disciples, we are first a disciple of Jesus.
- When we make disciples, we show others how we have learned to be like Jesus.
- We show others through our own lives and by teaching others what it means to live for Jesus.

What is every Jesus follower? (They are disciples who make disciples.)

1. 1 Corinthians 11:1: *Those who follow Jesus should live in such a way that others can follow them.*

GOD'S MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

BIG IDEA: WE MAKE DISCIPLES AS WE ARE GOING.²

Our lives are set apart for Jesus.

- We do not choose to believe in Jesus, God chooses us.
- When God chooses us, He gives us faith to believe and we are set apart as His children.
- Because our lives are set apart for Jesus, we have a special calling to live for Him and to be like Him.
- God has ransomed us from our sin and brought us into His family to be His disciples.
- This special calling means that wherever we are we are showing others what it means to follow Jesus.



Have the children make a list of their daily activities. Next, ask the children to think of ways they can live for Jesus or share the gospel in those daily activities. Remind them that Jesus followers make disciples wherever they go.

Every part of our lives should reflect Jesus to others.

- Jesus completely transforms our lives.
- This means that every part of us is different after we believe in Jesus.
- We become new creations in Him and we live our lives differently.
- Every part of our lives should show others how to live for Jesus and how to be like Him.
- When we live our lives for Him, every aspect of our lives is a reflection of Him and the work He has done in our lives.

We are chosen to show Jesus to others.

- God has chosen His people to be the way the world learns about Jesus.
- God has brought His followers into His family to send them out to declare the truth about Jesus to the world.
- We are set apart and chosen to be God's messengers.
- In order to be His messengers, we must first understand the message ourselves and live it out.

Where do we make disciples? (In every part of our lives we should be living for and sharing the truth about Jesus.)

2. John 15:16: We are chosen to abide in Christ and to bear fruit for Him wherever we are.

GOD'S MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

BIG IDEA: WE MAKE DISCIPLES BY SHARING THE GOSPEL.³

The first thing we teach is the gospel to those who have not heard.

- God has designed His mission in such a way that His people are the way in which the lost hear the truth.
- God has ordained that it is through His people sharing what Jesus has done in their lives that others hear and believe also.
- God chooses to involve His people in His mission and gives us the great command and responsibility to share the truth with others.
- The first part of making a disciple is sharing the gospel with that person.
- A person cannot begin to be like Jesus until he or she has believed in Jesus.

Being like Jesus means telling everyone about Him.

- Jesus shared Himself with everyone.
- He did not discriminate or withhold the truth about Himself with certain people.
- He came into the world for the whole world to know Him and He shared Himself with the world.
- When we are like Jesus, we are sharing the truth about Him with all people.
- God's mission is that His people share the gospel with all people in the world, not with just some.

Discipling others means pointing them to the cross.

- In order to truly disciple others, we must always point them to the cross.
- Some people will look to the cross for salvation and others who have already done that will look to the cross to learn how to live for Jesus and not for themselves.
- When we are investing in others we are pointing them to Jesus to learn how to be like Him and how to live a fulfilling life.

What is the first step in discipling others? (The first step is sharing the gospel with those who have not believed.)

3. Romans 10:13-14: Jesus followers are called to share the truth with those who have not heard so that they may believe.

GOD'S MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

BIG IDEA: WE ARE TO HELP MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL PEOPLE GROUPS.⁴

God's mission is for all the world.

- God's mission involves all of the world.
- His mission is not just for part of the world or for certain people groups.
- God sent Jesus to die for the sin of the whole world and anyone who believes is saved.
- God saves His chosen people and His mission is for those people to go into all of the world to share the truth about Jesus.
- It is God's plan and will that all people groups hear the gospel.



Bring in a world map. Have the children point out different places on the map that may not have heard the gospel yet. Help them locate certain areas of the world that are unreached and unengaged. Remind the children that it is God's mission that all people hear.

Making disciples means telling all people the good news of the gospel.

- When we join in God's mission, we will tell all people the good news of the gospel.
- We will teach others to go into the world to tell the good news of the gospel with all people.
- Part of being Jesus' disciple is sharing with all people in the world.

God's mission is fulfilled when all people groups have heard.

- It is God's plan that all people groups hear the gospel before Jesus returns.
- God intends to have all people hear the truth before Jesus returns to the earth.
- God's mission will be fulfilled when all these people groups have heard.
- We are part of fulfilling God's mission.

What is God's mission? (God's mission is for all people to hear the gospel.)

4. Matthew 24:14: God's mission involves all people groups hearing the truth before Jesus returns.

GOD'S MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

BIG IDEA: WE MAKE DISCIPLES THROUGH THE POWER AND PRESENCE OF JESUS.⁵

All our power to disciple comes from Jesus.

- We do not do anything good in our own power.
- All our ability and power to share with others and be like Jesus comes from Jesus.
- He promised to leave a helper for His followers and He did send the Holy Spirit.
- It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that any believer is able to please God and fulfill His mission.

Jesus is the only way for anyone to be saved.

- It is only through the power of Jesus and the work He did on the cross that anyone is saved.
- Jesus is the way that any person is able to be like Him and to please God.
- When we share with others, it is only through the power and work that Jesus has done that we are able to be successful.

Jesus helps His followers as they seek to fulfill God's mission.

- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be a helper to His followers.
- When a believer seeks to fulfill God's mission, Jesus helps them by guiding them to the right people and by giving them the right words.
- Jesus does the work in the heart of a person to help them have faith to believe in Him.
- When a follower seeks to please Jesus, it is the power and presence of Jesus that helps that follower be successful.

Through whose power do believers disciple? (They disciple through the power of Jesus.)



Have the children take turns naming something that is too difficult for them to do by themselves. Next, ask the children to think of things they can't do by themselves, but can do with others. Remind them that believers are able to disciple because they have the help of Jesus.

5. Acts 1:8: When Jesus left the earth, He promised to send the Helper, the Holy Spirit to help His followers.

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HOOKS



KNOW

Breaking Free

Give the children strips of paper and markers. Ask the children to write down something that keeps people from sharing the gospel with others on their strip of paper. Next, use a stapler or tape to join the strips of paper together to form a paper chain. Lead the children in a discussion about how God's mission is to make disciples.



DO

- When we believe in Jesus, we join in the mission to make disciples of all people.
- Jesus followers are set apart and called to be God's messengers and to make disciples.



FEEL

Disciples Making Disciples

Have the children pair up with someone else and spend a few moments sharing some truth that he or she has learned about Jesus. Once every person has a chance to share a truth, lead them in a discussion about how disciples make disciples.



WANT

- When God calls His followers to join in His mission, they are first disciples.
- When a person is a disciple of Jesus, they make disciples.
- Disciples reproduce themselves. This is God's plan for His followers.