

GOD OFFERS A NEW MISSION

STORY: NEW CREATION

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS A NEW MISSION

Psalm 145:10-13; Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16, 19-20; Acts 2:4-11; 4:18-20; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:10

BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

BIG IDEAS

- The mission belongs to all Jesus followers.
- The mission is empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- The mission happens when we bear witness of what Jesus has done.
- The mission is to spread the good news about Jesus to everyone everywhere.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 1-2

After Jesus' resurrection, He commissioned His followers to do His mission. He empowered them by giving every believer the Holy Spirit to guide them and teach them. The believer's mission is to share the gospel with everyone.

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: GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE

Before Saul knew Jesus, he was spiritually dead. He was lost in his sin and was not really living. After he encountered Jesus, he began to really live and became alive in Christ.

BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Holy Spirit gives power to Jesus followers to be His witnesses.

- Those who have repented and believed in Jesus are His followers.
- Not only do His followers receive forgiveness and eternal life, they receive a new mission.
- This new mission is to be His witness throughout all of the world.
- As His followers go out into the world, they receive power from God's Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit lives inside of every believer to teach, guide, remind, and empower them to fulfill God's mission.

Jesus followers receive a new mission when they believe.

- Prior to believing in Jesus, people live for themselves.
- Before we know Jesus, we live lives that are selfish and self-centered.
- When a person becomes a Jesus follower, his or her life is transformed as his or her heart is set free from the sin nature that once enslaved it.
- Jesus followers are no longer bound by sin to follow their own sinful ways.
- Instead, they receive a new mission of sharing the good news of what Jesus has done with all people everywhere.

The church serves as God's witness in all the world.

- The church, made up of all the people who have believed in Jesus, is Jesus' body.
- The church is given the task of building up believers and of sharing the gospel with all the world.
- God's people are called to go into every part of the world to share the gospel with all people.
- This is the mission that God gives to His children.
- The mission is part of the purpose of every person who believes in Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 1-2

The Mission Of Christ

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a copy of the "Jesus Makes All Things New" bookmark or allow them to cut it out themselves. Have them decorate their bookmarks with crayons, colored pencils or markers. Finished bookmarks can be mounted to colored cardstock strips or covered in clear Contact paper to make them more sturdy. As the children work, talk about how caterpillars are transformed into beautiful butterflies through the process of metamorphosis and we can be transformed (or made new) by believing in Jesus' saving work on the cross for us.

BIG IDEA: THE MISSION BELONGS TO ALL JESUS FOLLOWERS.¹**God's mission is to share the gospel.**

- Jesus came to earth to save people from their sin.
- While He was on earth, He shared with people about His upcoming death and resurrection.
- This good news is the gospel of Jesus.
- The gospel of Jesus is given to those who believe and their mission is to share it with others.
- God's plan for His followers is that they are used to spread the good news of the salvation that He offers to all who believe.



Divide the children into groups and assign each group a part of the Gospel to illustrate. Put the illustrations together and help the children practice retelling the gospel story. Remind them that the mission of sharing the gospel belongs to God's people.

God's mission is for His followers.

- God's mission is not for all people. It is for those who have repented and believed in Him.
- Those people who are called His sons and daughters receive this mission when they believe.
- God equips them to carry the good news of the gospel to the ends of the earth so that all may hear it.
- God's mission is specifically for His followers---all those who have walked away from their sin and toward God.

The mission is for every person who believes.

- All who believe in Jesus become His followers.
- Not only are they Jesus followers, but they become God's children.
- When we believe in Jesus, we are called God's sons and daughters.
- We become part of His family and the mission of this family is share the gospel with the world.
- Every person who believes is called to carry out the mission of God.

To whom does the mission of Jesus belong? (It belongs to Jesus followers everywhere.)

1. Acts 2:4-13: The Day of Pentecost saw the coming of the Holy Spirit to guide Jesus followers to carry out the mission of Christ.

BIG IDEA: THE MISSION IS EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.²**Christ followers receive power from the Holy Spirit.**

- Jesus promised to send a Helper to His people when He ascended into Heaven after His resurrection.
- Everyone who believes in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to live for Christ and to fulfill the mission of Christ.
- The Holy Spirit lives inside of every person who believes and guides them to be like Christ every day.



Bring in a bag of balloons. Ask the children to take a balloon and blow it up. Blow up a balloon as the children are blowing up balloons. Tell the children that the Spirit of God is like the air in the balloon. Jesus followers are filled with the Spirit when they repent and believe and they are empowered to fulfill God's mission.

Believers are taught by the Holy Spirit.

- God gave the Holy Spirit as a guide and teacher.
- The Holy Spirit serves as the teacher of every believer.
- The Holy Spirit illuminates Scripture and gives understanding to those who believe and follow Christ.
- Believers are also taught by the Holy Spirit to share the gospel with others and to fulfill God's mission.

Believers are led on mission by the Holy Spirit.

- Those who follow Christ are guided by the Spirit to live for Him daily.
- In every aspect of our lives, those who believe are led by the Spirit to glorify God.
- The Spirit serves as a reminder of God's Word and commands.
- The Spirit also nudges Christ followers as they encounter people who have not heard the Gospel or have yet to believe.
- The Holy Spirit is the power inside of believers that enables them to fulfill God's mission.

How do Jesus followers receive power to fulfill God's mission? (God gives every Jesus follower the Holy Spirit to empower them to fulfill His mission.)

2. Acts 2:2: At Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit to fill every believer to guide, teach, remind, and help them fulfill His mission.

BIG IDEA: THE MISSION HAPPENS WHEN WE BEAR WITNESS OF WHAT JESUS HAS DONE.³

Those who have experienced the forgiveness of Jesus will share the good news of His salvation.

- All of God's creation declares His glory and work. Even the inanimate objects testify to the existence of God.
- God's people, who have experienced His saving grace, testify to His salvation through their changed lives.
- When a person receives forgiveness, they receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit changes a person to look more like Christ and this change is a testimony to the power of God.
- Those who have experienced God's mercy share this good news with others.



Have the children define the word "mission". Allow them to share their own definitions and allow them to give examples of missions from life. Remind them that a Jesus follower's mission is to share the gospel with others.

God's people testify to the world of His glory.

- A believer's very life is a testimony to the glory of God.
- All people reflect the image of God, but those who are His followers reflect His glory through their changed lives.
- People who follow Christ live lives that testify to the existence of God and to His life changing power.
- Jesus followers also are compelled to share with others the life changing grace they've experienced.

The mission goes forth because of God's redeemed people.

- God's mission of sharing the gospel with all people is accomplished through His followers.
- God chooses to use His people to fulfill His mission because it is His plan and brings Him glory.
- The gospel goes into the world because God's people take it.
- When a person has repented and believed in Jesus, their mission is to share the gospel with all those who have yet to believe.
- This mission happens when God's people testify to the life-changing work that God has done in their own lives.

How does God's mission happen? (It happens when His people share what He has done in their own lives.)

3. Psalm 145:10-12: Those who have received God's mercy and grace will testify of the work He has done.

BIG IDEA: THE MISSION IS TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS TO EVERYONE EVERYWHERE.⁴

God's mission is to tell the world about Himself.

- God's story is a love story that involves His sending His only Son to die for all the world.
- God's mission given to His followers is for believers to share this story with every person in all the world.
- God's mission is for people everywhere to know of His love and His sacrifice on their behalf that they might have eternal life with Him.
- This mission is from God and for all people who believe in Jesus.



Bring in a large piece of paper and pencils and markers. Ask the children to create a newspaper headline and front page story that illustrates the gospel. Remind the children that the mission of God is for His people to share the good news with all people.

God gives the mission to His followers.

- God does not necessarily need people to fulfill His mission, but He chooses to use His people as part of His plan.
- He gives this special mission to His followers.
- The mission is not for everyone. It is for those who have repented and believed in Jesus.
- Those who have aligned themselves with God and are part of His family are given the mission of sharing this good news with people everywhere.

Jesus followers are called to tell everyone about Jesus' offer of salvation.

- The mission of God's people is for everyone to hear the gospel.
- God's people do not get to decide who hears and who doesn't. God has given them the mission of sharing with every single person in the world.
- God's mission is for His people to share the good news.
- God has not given the work of salvation to His people, only the mission of sharing that this salvation is available to them.
- The work of salvation is the job of the Holy Spirit, yet the Holy Spirit leads Jesus followers to share this good news with those who will believe.

What is the mission of God? (The mission of God is to share the good news of Jesus with everyone everywhere.)

4. Matthew 28:16-20: Jesus gave His followers the Great Commission which is to go into all the world making disciples.

HOOKS

**Powerful Spirit**

Give each child a large craft stick and different colored streamers or ribbons. Help the children glue the streamers or ribbons to their craft sticks. Tell the children that the different colors of ribbon represent when the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost and people spoke in different languages. Lead the children in a discussion about how the Spirit is powerful and helps God's people share the Gospel.



- On the day of Pentecost, people could understand the gospel in their own language because of the Spirit of God.
- The Holy Spirit also helps God's people share the gospel with those who have not heard.

**Possible Mission**

Give each child a blank piece of stationery and an envelope. Ask the children to write out or draw the gospel on their stationery and then place it inside the envelope. Next, ask the children to think of someone they know who has not heard the gospel and address their envelope to that person. Lead the children in a discussion about how the mission of God is possible because of the Holy Spirit.

