

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH AS HIS MESSENGERS

FOUNDATION: GOD IS REDEEMER - GOD GIVES CHURCH

BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES THE CHURCH AS HIS MESSENGERS

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:45-49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20A

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.

BIG IDEAS

- God makes a new creation of people who put saving faith in Jesus.
- God's people, His church, are His messengers.
- God sends His messengers to the whole world.
- God spreads the gospel through His messengers.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 28:16-20; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

Jesus died so that those who believe in Him might be His family and go out sharing His message with the world. Believers are given the job of carrying the gospel to the whole world beginning with their own neighborhoods.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS REDEEMER—GOD GIVES CHURCH

God does not just save us from eternal punishment, but also redeems us. The word redemption means to buy back. This means that God sets us free from the slavery of sin through the death of His Son. God is not just redeeming us as individuals though, but He instead is redeeming a people, His church. The church is the collection of believers both universal (Christians everywhere) and local (Christians who meet together locally). God has set apart His people to declare His praises.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know:

- God is our Redeemer when we have no hope
- Redemption is when we are set free from our sin and brought into right relationship with God



Every child should feel:

- Hope that comes through Jesus our Redeemer



Every child should be able to:

- Describe the gospel message



Every child should want to:

- Live in hope, not separation

FAMILY DEVOTION: GOD'S PEOPLE ARE HIS MESSENGERS

God's people are not only His family, but they are His messengers. They are given the responsibility of carrying the gospel to the world.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20A

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.

When we are saved, we are part of God's family: the Church.

- When we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus to save us, we are given a new life.
- We have a new identity as a Jesus follower, and our identity is found in Him and nothing else.
- We also are given a new family.
- We are adopted into God's family, which is called the church.

God's family are His ambassadors.

- When we are saved, we are given a new purpose. We are His ambassadors.
- An ambassador is someone who represents someone or something else.
- Our lives are purposed to represent Jesus to the world.
- We should live in such a way that other people can see Jesus through our lives.

God's family are His messengers.

- When we are saved, we are given a new mission.
- We do not just act like we love Jesus, we must tell people about Him as well.
- We are His messengers, taking His message of the gospel to other people in the world.
- We should talk about Jesus and share the gospel with people. This is what it looks like to be a messenger for God.
- Everyone who is in God's family is a messenger for Him.

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
AS HIS MESSENGERS**BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 28:16-20; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21***The Messengers of Christ*

Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Mark 16:15; Matthew 24:14.

Teacher Introduction:

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His disciples and all those who follow Him a new purpose in life. Prior to knowing Christ, a believer lives for himself or herself. Christ came to make things new and when a person follows Christ through salvation, he or she receives a new heart and a new purpose. This new purpose is to carry Jesus' message to the world. The message that believers should share with the world is that Jesus came to the earth, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, was buried and then rose again on the third day. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price in full for the sin of the world. Now, when someone repents, or turns away from that sin, and believes in Jesus, he or she is redeemed from their sin debt. This redemption is more than not being judged for their sin; it means following Christ by sharing His message of hope and salvation with those who have not heard this message or have yet to believe it. We are saved by Christ to be His messengers. Our lives are no longer our own, but are Christ's. We live to continue His work of sharing the good news of Jesus with others. We work as His church to carry the gospel message to the world by sending missionaries and supporting missionaries everywhere.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the truth: *The Messengers of Christ*. The four points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Matthew 28:16-20; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 and teach the truth that the church is the messenger of Christ. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the truth the church is the messenger of Christ.

Opening Illustration:

Bring in several newspapers and magazines for the children to look at. Show them how the newspapers and magazine tell different messages or stories about the world or the local area in which you live. Remind the children that His church is given to be the messenger to the world, sharing His gospel with the world.

BIG IDEA: GOD MAKES A NEW CREATION OF PEOPLE WHO PUT SAVING FAITH IN JESUS.¹**We are made new through faith in Christ.**

- When we repent and follow Christ, our sinful hearts are no longer the same.
- We become new creations in Christ. This means our old way of living is no longer what represents us.
- Instead, we become more like Christ everyday because His Spirit lives inside of us.
- Our old selves no longer control us and we live lives that are seeking to bring God glory.



Give each child a blank piece of paper. Ask the children to draw on the paper with markers. As they draw, tell them that the marks they are making represent their sin. Next, give the children a clean piece of paper. Tell them that Jesus makes us new creations just like you're giving them a new piece of paper.

We are made new in Christ in order to serve Him.

- When we become new creations, we are made new in order to serve Christ.
- Our old way of living is no longer what brings us joy or gives us a sense of purpose.
- Christ makes us new and gives us a new purpose. We become His servants and live to bring Him glory by serving Him.
- We serve Him by serving others just as He served others.

We are made righteous by Christ.

- Christ lived a perfect life and died on the cross for our sin.
- When we believe in Him by turning away from our sin and recognizing the work that He did on the cross, His righteousness is credited to us.
- When God looks at us, He doesn't see our sinfulness; He sees the righteousness of Christ.
- We are made new through Christ's perfect life.

How are we made new creations? (We are made new through belief in Christ and the work He did on the cross.)

1. Ephesians 2:10: *We have been made new and given a new purpose through Christ.*

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
AS HIS MESSENGERS**BIG IDEA: GOD'S PEOPLE, HIS CHURCH, ARE HIS MESSENGERS.²****God's people are His ambassadors to the world.**

- God is a God of reconciliation. He brings His people into His family by redeeming through the blood of Jesus.
- When God's people are redeemed, they receive a new life and a new purpose.
- Their new purpose is to be God's ambassador to the world.
- God chooses to use His people to reach those who do not yet know Him.
- He uses His church to share the good news of the salvation He offers.



Bring in a container with enough small envelopes for each child to have one. Write a different message on each envelope, such as "Jesus loves you," or "God is one." Sit in a circle with the children and have them take turns choosing an envelope. Read the message to them and remind them that God's church is His messenger to the world.

God uses His people to do His work in the world.

- Though God does not need His people to accomplish His work, He chooses to use His church to do His work.
- God's people are a chosen people, set aside to bring God glory through their service to Him.
- God chooses to send His church into the world to bring the good news of the gospel to others.
- God sends His people to those who have yet to hear the gospel or have yet to believe it.
- His Spirit works through them to bring hope to others.

God's people work to carry the gospel to everyone.

- God has given His church the job of sharing the gospel with the world.
- Before Jesus ascended, or returned to heaven, He instructed His disciples to go into all the nations sharing the gospel with them.
- Now, those who are His followers are His church and He sends His church into the world to evangelize, baptize and raise up fellow believers.
- God gives the church a specific purpose of reaching people with the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Who has God made His messengers? (God has made His church His messenger.)

2. 2 Corinthians 5:20: *God's people are His ambassadors; they are given the job of sharing the gospel with those around them and in the world.*

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
AS HIS MESSENGERS**BIG IDEA: GOD SENDS HIS MESSENGERS TO THE WHOLE WORLD.³****God's messengers carry the gospel to their towns, cities, and neighborhoods.**

- God gives the church so that the gospel is given to the world.
- The people in the church are God's messengers.
- His messengers have the job of carrying the gospel to their own towns first and then to the rest of the world.
- When Jesus taught His disciples on the earth, He prepared them and trained them to share the gospel with everyone.
- God's messengers are the way in which He chooses to spread His message.



Bring in a world map or globe. Allow the children to point to different places on the map or globe. Remind the children that God sends His messengers to every part of the earth to share the gospel.

God's messengers carry the gospel to every part of earth.

- God promises to carry the gospel to all the earth.
- He uses His people to accomplish this purpose.
- God grows His people to be more like Him and empowers them to share the gospel with everyone.
- God doesn't need messengers, but He chooses to involve His people in His mission.
- The gospel is not just for some people; it is for all people.
- God's command is that His messengers go to every part of the world and share the gospel.

Where does God send His messengers? (He sends them to the whole world.)

3. Mark 16:15: Repeatedly Jesus commanded His disciples to carry the gospel to all the earth.

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
AS HIS MESSENGERS**BIG IDEA: GOD SPREADS THE GOSPEL THROUGH HIS MESSENGERS.⁴****God uses His people to spread His message.**

- God's people are uniquely used by Him to be a part of His mission to the world.
- He redeems His people, makes them more like Him and sends them out to share the gospel with the world.
- There is no other way that God has chosen to share the gospel except through His people.
- God's plan is to use His people to spread His gospel to the world.
- God's people are chosen by God to be His ambassadors, to be used by Him.

God will spread the gospel to the all the world.

- God is faithful and true. What He says will happen always happens.
- God promises that the gospel will go out to all the earth.
- Because God has promised that the gospel will go out, the gospel will go out.
- God's people will take the gospel to every person in the earth because that is God's will.
- The people who have not heard the gospel will hear it because God will use His people to spread it.
- God's Word is true and His Word will be known in all the world.



Bring in some paper plates and some shaving cream. Give the children a plastic knife, paper plate, and some shaving cream. Ask the children to spread the shaving cream on their plate. Tell them that the plate represents the world, the shaving cream represents God's messengers and the knife represents God. God uses His people to spread the gospel.

How does God spread the gospel to all the earth? (God uses His messengers to spread the gospel.)

4. Matthew 24:14: God uses His people to spread the gospel. The gospel will be spread to all the earth.

GOD GIVES THE CHURCH
AS HIS MESSENGERS

HOOKS

**Send A Message**

Give each child an envelope and paper. Help the children draw or write a message to someone on their paper and then put the message in their envelope. Remind the children that God gives the church as His messengers. The people in God's church are used by Him to spread the gospel to the world.

**Follow the Messenger**

Play a game of Simon Says except call it the Messenger Says. Tell the children that they have to do what the messenger says for them to do. Let the children take turns being the messenger and giving directions. Talk with the children about how God gives the church as His messengers and the church shares the gospel with the world.

