



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 42

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

*The nations must be taught the instruction of the Lord.*



**MONDAY**

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### **THE STORY: MATTHEW 28:16,17**

Some of the disciples struggled to believe. The eleven disciples were asked to meet Jesus on a particular mountain. When they saw Jesus, some worshipped Him, while others doubted. Rather than rebuke those who doubted, Jesus commissioned them all! What an encouragement to us when we struggle at times with our faith.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

How are we like the disciples in this passage? (Even when we know the truth about Jesus, we can still doubt Him.)

What are some areas where we can struggle to believe and trust God? (Parents, lead by confessing your own unbelief. Many times this manifests when we lose faith that God is able to take us through difficult times for our good.)

How can we be encouraged by the doubt of the disciples? (They saw the risen Lord! If they doubted, then we, who have not seen the Lord, will also doubt. When we doubt, we can be encouraged that Jesus uses doubters. Jesus reveals himself to doubters and helps us in our unbelief.)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to strengthen your faith.



**TUESDAY**

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**THE STORY: MATTHEW 28:19**

Jesus commissioned the doubters. In spite of the fact that some doubted, Jesus commissioned all eleven to go forth and teach all nations to obey everything commanded, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Here, contained in a very small portion of Scripture, are some astounding truths. First, the apostles were not to limit their teaching to other Jews. They were to spread the teaching of Jesus to the Gentiles as well! In this Great Commission, Jesus applied this to us as well. Jesus also revealed the doctrine of the Trinity here when He says we are to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. By including Himself, Jesus again declared His deity.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Who did Jesus say they should teach? (Jesus told the disciples to go to all nations.)

How does the Great Commission remind us of the promise given to Abraham about his offspring in Genesis 18:18, 22:18, and 26:4? (God promised to bless all nations through Abraham and his offspring. Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, is the means by which all nations will be blessed.)

**PRAY:**

Thank Jesus that His salvation has been extended to all nations.



## WEDNESDAY WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

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### **THE STORY: LUKE 24:46-49**

The Great Commission of Matthew 28:16-20 is not found in the other Gospels, but has a companion passage in Luke. Jesus had earlier commissioned the disciples to spread the message of His death and resurrection (Luke 24:46). Both passages tell us that the gospel is to be preached to all nations. The salvation of Jesus Christ is not limited to the Jews, but is to go to all nations and all peoples. Matthew records that those who receive the message are to be baptized. That baptism, Paul later explains, is an identification with the death and resurrection of Jesus in the life of the individual believer (Romans 6:3,4).

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

Where do you see the gospel in Luke 24:46-49? (Verses 46 and 47 basically outline the gospel. Even though this might be obvious for your children, we should never tire of pointing out the gospel. We want to ensure that our children immediately recognize the gospel.)

What does it mean to be a witness of something? (Being a witness means that you saw it happen.)

Are we witnesses even though we didn't see Jesus? (We are witnesses of what we read in the Bible. We can't tell people that we were alive and saw Jesus die on the cross, but we can tell them that we believe what the Bible says happened. We can also tell others about our relationship with God. In that way we are also witnesses.)

### **PRAY:**

Thank Jesus for each part of the gospel outlined in this passage: His suffering on the cross, rising from the dead, and granting of repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name.



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## THURSDAY

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### **THE STORY: MATTHEW 28:20**

Jesus is with us as we go. Matthew concluded his Gospel with amazing encouragement from Christ. Jesus told us that He will be with us always, to the very end of the age. Whenever we run into difficulty, we need to remember that Jesus is with us. Whenever we doubt, we should remember that Jesus is near. This is a verse we should remember!

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why is this verse so encouraging? (We are all going to face trials. What a joy to know that Jesus is always with us and that we can call on Him.)

Is it easy to forget this? (Yes. In our struggles we often rely on our own strength, ideas, opinions, and feelings. We forget that Jesus is ready to help us.)

### **PRAY:**

Thank the Lord for being with us forever.



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## FRIDAY ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

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### **THE STORY: MICAH 5:4,5**

Jesus is the shepherd whose greatness will extend to the ends of the earth. The promise to Abraham was that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through his offspring. Through Jesus, this promise is fulfilled. Those of us who believe are called the sheep of His flock who know His voice. Jesus is our peace. He said in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What part of this passage sounds like the Great Commission? (This passage tells us that Jesus' greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. In the Great Commission, the message of Christ, which conquers death, is to go into all the earth.)

What kind of peace does the Lord give? (Jesus does not promise us freedom from earthly trials. He does promise us freedom from the wrath of God, along with forgiveness, rather than judgment, for our sin. The result is an unshakeable peace, even in the midst of earthly trials.)

**PRAY:**

Thank the Lord for being your Good Shepherd, your Savior, and your Prince of Peace.