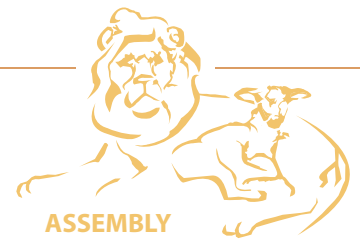


THE GREAT COMMISSION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 28:16-20



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

GO AND TELL THEM

Supplies

several sheets of red
construction paper

Demonstrate the spread of the Gospel by the following activity. Take a sheet of red construction paper and tell the class it represents the Gospel. Explain that the Gospel is the story of Christ's death on the cross to pay for our sin and His rising again. The red paper represents the blood of Christ covering our sins.

Organize your group like bowling pins, one person in front followed by two then three then four and so on. Tell the children that we are going to see how the message of Jesus spreads. You as the teacher can demonstrate by tearing up a sheet at the start of the exercise. When a child receives a piece of the red construction paper he should tear off a small piece for himself then tear what is left in half (two pieces) and pass it along to someone else.

This should have the effect of multiplying the pieces. You can have the children in the back send pieces forward if you want. Each time they should take a piece for themselves and then tear the remaining paper in half. Eventually everyone will have multiple pieces. Look for the smallest piece of paper torn and hold it up to the class.

Ask them what color the paper is. They, of course, will tell you red. You can explain to them that no matter how many people we did this to, no matter how small the piece, it would still be red.

Similarly the Gospel spreads and though it goes from person to person, the message is still powerful. Jesus Christ died on the cross to save us from the punishment due for our sins.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 28:16-20

BAPTIZE THE RAG

Supplies

- a batch of red dye
- some white rags
- rubber bands

Jesus told the disciples to baptize new disciples. The word baptize comes from the Greek baptizo which means to submerge. It was used to describe the dying of garments.

Explain the word to the children and then show them what happens when the rag is dipped fully into the water. Explain to the children that this is what the disciples did to new converts, dunked them under the water.

Romans 6:3-4 tells us that going down under the water in baptism represents Jesus death and burial in the tomb. Coming out of the water represents Jesus' resurrection.

If you want to have a little fun, twist up a rag with a number of rubber bands and then dip it quickly into the water. Squeeze out the excess and then undo the rubber bands to reveal a tie dyed effect. The kids will think the design is cool. This exercise will help them understand and remember baptism.

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

One of the most interesting points to this passage is the reaction of the disciples to the appearing of the Lord. In verse 17 Matthew records, "they worshipped him." What an amazing illustration of the deity of Christ. Worship was reserved for God alone! If Jesus was just a man, if He had not risen from the dead, they would not have worshipped Him.

To worship anyone but God alone was a terrible sin. Jesus did rise from the dead and He was God in man. Jesus defeated death so that we could live forever. Interestingly, Matthew also records that some doubted. Isn't that true for us today?

The message of the Gospel; Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, is a story that causes some to worship yet others to doubt it is true. Our changed lives demonstrate the power of the Gospel and the truth of the story.