

THE GREAT COMMISSION

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 28:16-20



The STORY

Read about the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What did the disciples do when they saw Jesus had risen from the dead? (The disciples worshipped Him, but some doubted.)
- Why did they worship Jesus? (By this time, knowing Jesus had risen from the dead, most of them finally understood that Jesus was not just a prophet but He was God.)
- Why is this important for us today? (Some people do not believe Jesus was God. They say He was only a good man. These Scriptures and others help us to know Jesus was God and was even worshipped by the disciples.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: eleven disciples bowing down worshipping Jesus. Engage the children by asking:

- What does it mean to worship someone? (Worship is when we give someone or something our love and loyalty as our God.)
- Can we tell which disciple doubted by looking in the picture? (No, we can't tell those who believe by the way they look because believing is something that a person does in his heart.)
- Why are there only eleven not twelve disciples? (Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, killed himself. He did not ask Jesus for forgiveness from his sin but ran away from Jesus instead.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Who did Jesus say should get baptized? (Jesus said that disciples should be baptized.)
- Do people become disciples today? (Yes, people become disciples of Jesus today.)
- How does a person become a disciple? (You become a disciple by believing the Gospel – the message that Jesus died on the cross and rose again for the forgiveness of sins – and trusting in Jesus for your own life. That is what it means to follow Jesus.)
- Have you ever been to a baptism? (If one of the children has been to a baptism here or at another church, allow him to tell the children what it was like. Be prepared to redirect those who might have odd details or come from a church which practiced a different form of 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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.