

April 19, 2020

- 1) Worship | If you've got a smart tv, pick a few worship songs off Youtube to sing together. Maybe each person in your family can take a turn picking their favorite song
- 2) Examen: Click [here](#)
- 3) Lesson: **The Great Commission**

Scripture:

Acts 1:1-11

Matthew 28:16-20

Main Point: Jesus gave us a special job: to show others how to follow him.

Tips for teaching: Today, we're reviewing the story of Jesus' rescue and examining the special job Jesus gave us (the Great Commission). We're also talking about practical ways to do that job! Ahead of time, spend some time praying about Matthew 28:18-20.

Make sure to communicate that there are many ways to share the good news of Jesus!

Goal: Kids will (1) review the story of Jesus' Rescue, (2) recognize that Jesus gave us a special job to tell others about him and (3) identify ways we can teach others about Jesus.

Why? Making disciples is a command Jesus gave us. We want kids to think about how to do that.

Teaching

What are some of your favorite things- could be candy, sports teams, activities, food, art, movie??? Why would you tell people what movies or teams or activities you like? (Let kids respond.) Oh, that makes sense—you want other people to be able to enjoy them. We share stuff we care about, don't we? Maybe we tell people when we're excited, like if we win our favorite video game...or tell people when we're frustrated, like when a teacher(now known as mom or dad) gives out extra homework. We all have different things we like and don't like and different styles of fun. But is there anything so exciting and joyful that you think EVERYONE should know about it? You're right, there is! The good news of Jesus' rescue is something that EVERYONE should know!

REVIEW

Let's take a minute to remember why Jesus' rescue is so great. ([Picture of the cross](#)) Remember, the ways we choose our ways instead of God's -sins—separate us from God. But Jesus came and took OUR punishment. Then he came back to life, which means he's

stronger than death! That means death—or punishment—can't separate us from God...and we can be close to him again and one day live with him forever.

Let's watch a video to remember how Jesus rescued us. We always talk about how exciting it is that Jesus has rescued us. So as you watch, I want you to try to think of ONE thing about Jesus' rescue that makes you really, really excited. We'll talk about those things after the video.

[Video:](#) God's Story / Jesus' Rescue

Wow, so what are some of the things about Jesus' rescue that make you really excited? (Let kids respond. Share your own idea too—what makes YOU most excited?)

When we choose to say something like, "Jesus, I have done wrong things. But I believe you took my punishment. I want to follow you," we instantly become part of God's family. And one of the most exciting parts—if not THE most exciting part—of Jesus' rescue, is that he's preparing a home for God's family to live in with him forever.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

This is fantastic news! So Jesus doesn't want his rescue to be a secret. He wants EVERYONE to know about it, so that anyone can choose to be part of his family. In fact, in the Bible, before Jesus went back to Heaven, he gave his followers a special job. It's called the Great Commission, which means an important command. It's for us too, if we follow Jesus:

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MAKING DISCIPLES

Let's look at that for a second. Jesus said to go and make disciples. Does anybody know what a disciple is? (somebody who follows Jesus.) That's right, somebody who follows Jesus. So Jesus is saying, "Go and show people how to follow me!"

BAPTIZING THEM

Then he said to baptize people and teach them to obey him. What is baptism? Yes, it's when somebody goes into the water and comes back out. Kind of like how Jesus was buried and came back to life. It shows that a person wants to be like Jesus by following him. Baptism is like a BIG announcement. It's like somebody saying, "I follow Jesus."

Now, why did Jesus tell us to baptize people? Well, baptism is a lot like telling people what you believe, what you care about, who you follow.

Think about other ways we can show others what we think. (Show picture of a jersey.) For example, if I wore this shirt, what would you know about me? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, you'd know I follow the _____, even if I never said a word. When a person is baptized, it's kind of like that: we know they follow Jesus. Just like wearing this shirt is a way to show lots of people I'm a _____ fan, getting baptized is a way to show others you follow Jesus.

Now, we can choose to wear or not wear this shirt. _____ players probably want us to wear it, but nobody is going to command us to do it. But does Jesus command us to get baptized if we follow him? (look at the verse again.) Jesus says that when a person chooses to follow him (become a disciple), he or she should get baptized and then obey Jesus. And if we already follow Jesus, we get to teach people how to do that!

TEACHING PEOPLE TO OBEY JESUS

So if Jesus told us to teach people how to follow and obey him, we're going to need to know how to teach something, right? So I'm going to teach you something. Everybody stand up! I think it would be fun for you to learn some dance moves!

(Stand perfectly still as you describe dance moves. You can make up your own or use these:) Step to the right; swing your arms to the right as you step. Now go left while swinging your arms to the left. ...To the right again. ...To the left again.

Wow, you guys didn't do so well... How 'bout I show you? Follow along with me! (Do the dance moves this time, as the kids follow. Speak as necessary but make sure to show everything you tell them.) That was so much better! Thanks, guys. You can have a seat. Was it easier the first time or the second? Hold up 1 finger or 2. (Let kids respond. Hopefully, they hold up 2 fingers.) Yeah, it was WAY easier the 2nd time, right?

And you know what? Teaching dance moves is a lot like showing somebody how to follow Jesus. To really teach them—to really obey Jesus' command, we have to show them how to do it by following Jesus yourself! Of course, we'll mess up sometimes, but that's why Jesus died to rescue us! We can always repent—turn away from our mistakes and wrong choices—and turn back toward God and follow Jesus again!

PRAY Ask somebody to ask God to help us teach others how to follow and obey him!

REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER

1. Tell me what happened after Jesus died on the cross and came back to life.
2. Before Jesus went back up to Heaven, he gave his followers a special job, a great command. What was it? (3 parts-go, make disciples, baptise)
3. How do we become a follower of Jesus?
 - a. Make the choice. You could say something like this: "Jesus, I have done wrong things. But I believe you took my punishment and rescued me. I want to follow you and one day live with you forever."
4. What does it mean to make disciples?
5. What does it mean to get baptized?

6. Why does Jesus want his followers to get baptized?
7. Why did Jesus give us this command?

APPLICATION ACTIVITY Sharing our faith (what we believe about Jesus) can be hard. Let's talk about some ways to do it. How can we teach others to follow Jesus and obey him? •

Tear off two large sheets of paper and place it in the middle of your group.

- Split kids in two teams
- They should write/draw as many examples as they can think of how they can teach others to follow Jesus.

To make it more competitive, time them! Give them examples and brainstorm new ideas:

- Get baptized so everyone knows you follow Jesus
 - Let a friend choose what to play next time you're together
 - Tell a friend who's sad that you'll pray for them
 - Encourage kids to think of other ways they can show Jesus' love. Remind them that there are many, many ways to teach others to follow Jesus.
- Is it hard or easy to show somebody how to follow Jesus? Explain.