



# **KIDS**

**weekly devotional**



**verse**

## **Matthew 28:19-20**

“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.”







“Dad, why do we have to go out and tell others about Jesus,” ask Chase. “I mean, can’t Jesus do that Himself? He can do all things, can’t He?”

Chase’s dad knew where this came from. Last week, the entire church, including the kids, youth, and adults, learned about the Great Commission and making disciples. It was Jesus last command to His followers.

“Yes, He can, but I think you might be missing a very important point,” said dad. “A lot of people think this is about making ‘converts’, but it is about more than that, son.”

His dad told him that the Great Commission was not just about getting people “saved”, it was also about “discipling” people.

“Dad, I don’t even know what that means, you know, discipling,” said Chase. “I thought making a disciple was about, what is the word I’m looking for? Oh, yeah, making them a convert, like you said.”

His dad explained that the verses on the Great Commission were not just about bringing people to Christ, but also about baptizing them, and teaching them how to follow Jesus. “Chase, we don’t want to just tell people about Jesus, we want to teach them about Jesus,” said dad. “A convert is someone who is changed – like, from not believing to believing in Jesus”

“Isn’t that what it means to make a disciple,” asked Chase.

“Not really,” said dad. “After someone is changed, you know, made a convert, they have to begin to follow Jesus, and that means they have to learn how to follow.”



# point

“What do they have to learn,” asked Chase.

Dad went through the verse from Matthew that tells us to “baptize” the new believers and to “teach them all that Jesus commanded”.

“Why do they need to be baptized, dad,” he asked.

“New believers need to be baptized to show others they have a new life in Jesus,” said dad. “Jesus was baptized, and we need to be, too.”

Chase thought about that and wondered why he had never been baptized. He asked his dad if he needed to be baptized.

“Do you believe in Jesus, son,” asked dad. “I mean, do you believe He is God come to earth, who did miracles and then died on the cross for your sins.”

“I think so,” he said.

“Do you believe that He rose from the dead and is now sitting at the right hand of the Father,” asked dad.

“Yeah, I’m pretty sure I do,” said Chase.

“Well, we don’t get baptized until we are sure we believe, not just ‘pretty sure,’” said dad. “Do you understand that?”

Chase did understand but was still wondering why it was hard for him to know for sure if he was ready to follow Jesus.





# point

"I know baptism doesn't save me, dad, only faith can do that," he said. "I know Jesus is real, I really do. And I know that I want to follow Him. It's just that sometimes other things seem more important."

Dad knew exactly what Chase was talking about, and that everyone had things in their lives that "seemed more important".


"Chase, the reason Jesus says to teach the disciple everything He commanded is so that we can be certain He is the most important thing in our lives," said dad. "We need to know how Jesus wants us to live our lives. It is the job of all believers to help new disciples do that."

"So, do you think I am a disciple," asked Chase. "Do you think I need to get baptized to show everyone I am going to follow Jesus. I want to, dad, and then I want to keep learning."

"Chase, I do think you are a disciple, and I do think you are ready to be baptized and to follow Jesus for the rest of your life," said dad. "The question is, do you think you are ready?"

"I do, dad," he said. "Can you 'disciple' me?"

"I have been for a long time, son," said dad. "And that is what we are doing right now."





# lesson



Are you a convert or a flower? It is important that we know the difference. Yes, we all need to tell people about salvation and how Jesus can take away all our sin. But then we need to teach them how to live the Jesus wants us to live. Jesus wants us to love God and love others, and we all need to learn how to do that. So, if you tell someone about Jesus, be ready to teach them about Jesus, too. Simply tell them that we need to honor God, read His word, pray for others, let the Spirit lead us, and serve God by serving others.







# prayer



Lord, help us to really be followers who love You and love others.  
Help us to desire to read the Bible and to pray for our friends.  
Show us, Lord, how to serve You by serving others.

