

# WEEK 6: TO THE ENDS OF THE AGE

**MINISTRY IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS! THE BEST WAY TO BUILD THOSE RELATIONSHIPS IS THROUGH CONVERSATION. AS KIDS ARRIVE, BRING THEM INTO THE CHAT USING THE CONVERSATION STARTERS BELOW. BEING HEARD HELPS KIDS FEEL CONNECTED AND CONVERSATION WILL HELP BREAK THE ICE! MAKE SURE YOU GET IN ON THE FUN AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS TOO!**

## Conversation Starters

1. What was the best part of your week?
2. What was your least favorite part of your week?
3. What was your favorite mini game that the contestants played on The Great Invitation?
4. What was your least favorite mini game that they played?
5. What do you think the grand prize will be?
6. Who do you think will win?

**ONCE THE MAJORITY OF THE KIDS ARRIVE, INVITE THEM TO TAKE PART IN THE GROUP GAME/GROUP ACTIVITY SO YOU CAN CONTINUE TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS.**

## Opening Group Activity

*Supplies: Letter beads "G" and "O" (enough for everyone to have one of each), other assorted beads, bracelet string or wire, keychain rings.*

**Say:** This is our last week doing the Great Invitation. But that doesn't mean we can forget about the Great Commission! We are supposed to spend our whole lives telling others about Jesus.

1. Give each child a "G" and an "O."
2. Instruct them to make a bracelet or a keychain featuring the word "go."

*Let them know that this is to serve as a reminder to GO and make disciples, and they will have time at the end to finish their craft.*



# WEEK 6: LARGE GROUP TEACHING

## Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to our final week of The Great Invitation! Whether you know it or not, we have ALL been invited to take part in something great - the Great Commission. Last week we saw Carol, the orange contestant, win AGAIN! Who do you think will win the finale? What do you think the grand prize will be? Let's find out!

## Video

*Play "The Great Invitation: Episode 6"*

## Game

**"Balloon Obstacle Course"**

*Supplies: One balloon for each team with "Good News" written on it. Obstacle course and/or "track" around the room with a clear start and finish.*

Well that was quite a shock! Not only was there not a grand prize but there also wasn't an overall winner! I guess it does make sense, the Great Commission isn't a race or a competition. The Great Commission is a lifelong adventure that we are supposed to do together.

That doesn't mean we can't have one final competition here though! Let's bring up one girl and one guy from each team. Make sure you haven't had a chance to compete yet.

We are going to see which pair can take the "good news" to the ends of the age! The trick is, you cannot hold the balloon AND you can only touch it once at a time. You and your partner will hit it back and forth to each other as you make your way to the finish line. If the balloon touches the ground, you hit it more than once before your partner hits it, or you catch it, you have to start back at the beginning.

*If space does not allow for all to race at once, do a time trial with each team running the course on their own. Fastest time (or first to finish) wins.*

Way to go everyone! Let's hear it for our final winners!!

# WEEK 6: TEACHING (CONTINUED)

## Object Lesson

*Supplies: Dominoes or similar blocks.*

*Say: We have spent the last several weeks learning about the Great Commission through The Great Invitation.*

*As you make each point below, set up a domino. In the end you will tip the first domino so that it knocks over the rest.*

- First you have to admit that you have a sin problem - which means you disobey God.
- Then you have to believe that the Bible is true and that God sent His son Jesus to die for our sins.
- Next you have to confess that you believe in God and ask Him to be the ruler of your life.
- After that, you receive the helper or the Holy spirit.
- Now you have to GO and take part in the Great Commission!
- You have to REPRESENT God in your life by telling others about Him and showing others who Jesus is by acting like Him.
- You don't have to worry because you are EMPOWERED by the Holy Spirit and can get help from the church.
- You have to make sure that you aren't picking and choosing who you tell about God - the good news is for ALL people.
- Lastly, you have to keep telling others about Jesus, TO THE END OF THE AGE.

When you follow those steps in order, it creates a ripple or domino effect and helps you take part in the Great Commission! *Knock over the first domino so that each one falls.*

## Bible Lesson

So we have told you that you've been invited to be a part of the Great Commission. *"Therefore GO..."*

We have told you that a disciple is someone who has made God the ruler of their life, works to grow closer to God, and helps ALL others do the same. *"...and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."*

# WEEK 6: TEACHING (CONTINUED)

## Bible Lesson (continued)

We have told you that it is our job to teach others about God as His representatives.  
*"...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..."*

And lastly we encouraged you by reminding you that we don't have to do this alone!  
*"...And lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

So the next question is - how? What does this look like in your everyday life? I am going to give you 6 steps to help!

### **Step 1: Become a Christian by accepting Christ as your Lord and Savior**

The Great Commission is a call for Christians. So, are you a Christian? Have you accepted that you have a problem with sin? Do you believe that Christ died for your sins? Have you confessed all of this and invited God to be the leader of your life? If so, then great! You are ready for step 2. If not, that's okay too! Maybe this is the first time you've heard about this, maybe you've heard about it a lot but still have questions, or maybe you're just not ready yet. I will give you a chance to talk with someone at the end of large group today if you would like to discuss taking this first step!

### **Step 2: Grow Closer to God**

We can't tell others about God if we don't know Him very well ourselves! The more we get to know Him and the more we learn about Him, the easier it will be to tell others and answer their questions. So how do you get closer to God?

You can:

- Read the Bible: these are God's words! When you read the Bible you learn who He is, you learn that He loves us, and you learn how He wants you to live your life.
- Pray: Praying is talking with God. You can pray anywhere at any time. God loves to hear from you. He wants to know when you're sad, scared, worried, happy, excited, and even bored.
- Go to Church: Church is a great tool for getting to know God better! In community groups you get to learn a lesson from the Bible while also getting to know other Christians. If you go to big church, you get to see what it looks like to be a part of big church and worship God with your parents!
- Worship: Worship songs are full of wonderful truths about God. Plus the Bible calls us to worship Him.
- Get Creative: There are countless ways to spend time with God and grow closer to Him! You can use your imagination and be creative.

# WEEK 6: TEACHING (CONTINUED) & WORSHIP

## Bible Lesson (continued)

### Step 3: Practice Makes Perfect

This one will feel weird BUT it is super helpful. You have to practice! Would you go play in a piano recital or play a game of football without ever practicing? Would you go and take a big test without ever learning about the subject? Of course you wouldn't! This is no different. You should practice telling others about God.

- You can practice with friends who are also believers.
- You can write out practice "scripts" of telling other people about God.
- Practice memorizing and saying scripture.
- Watch others talk about God!

### Step 4: Pray

You can pray that God prepares you to tell others about Him, you can pray that the Holy Spirit helps you tell others about God, and you can pray for opportunities to tell others about God. Any time I have ever asked God to give me an opportunity to talk about Him, I have gotten one!

### Step 5: GO!

Now you just have to do it! It might feel awkward at first, and you will make mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes! The good news is, God is stronger than our mistakes. And as we talked about before, it isn't our job to convince people to believe in God, only to tell them about God!

### Step 6: Repeat

You can never spend too much time with God, you can never practice too much, you can never pray too much, and you can never tell others about God too much!

You don't have to go through a game show and a bunch of mini games! God made you to be part of the Great Commission!

## Worship

Let's all stand and sing our worship song together. This will help us memorize Matthew 28:19-20 while we Worship God! *Play "Go" by Seeds Worship*

## Dismiss to Small Groups

*Before dismissal, let the kids know that if anyone wants to talk more about becoming a Christian, they can stay back and meet with you or another leader.*

# WEEK 6: SMALL GROUP

## Small Group Time

### Discussion

1. What part of the relay would've been your favorite?
2. What part of the relay would've been your least favorite?
3. Were you surprised that there wasn't a big winner or prize?
4. How many steps are there to take part in the Great Commission? (6)
5. What was step 1? (*Becoming a Christian*)
6. What was step 2? (*Grow closer to God*)
7. How can you grow closer to God?
8. What was step 3? (*Practice*)
9. How can you practice?
10. What was step 4? (*Pray*)
11. How does praying help with the Great Commission?
12. What was step 5? (*Go*)
13. How can you start living out the Great Commission now?
14. What was step 6? (*Repeat*)
15. Why is it important to keep doing all of these steps?

## Bible Verse Memory

*Supplies: candy or prizes for those that have the verse memorized.*

Allow anyone who wants to present Matthew 28:19-20 by memory to do so. Award prizes to those who are successful.

## Pick Up Time

Finish their bracelet/key chain or allow them to make more with the leftover supplies.

