



THE GREAT COMMISSION

Preschool-K • #NT26 • May 24, 2026

Concept

Jesus wants everyone in the whole world to know Him and follow Him.

Goal

The children will learn that God has a plan so that everyone can have a relationship with Him.

Passage

Matthew 28:19-20

Key Verse: "So go and make followers of all people in the world... Teach them to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always..." Matthew 28:19-20 (International Children's Bible)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>It's a Big Big World Atlas</i>• <i>From Arapesh to Zuni</i> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A popular children's video or book – e.g., Lion King, Cinderella, etc.* (<i>teachers provide</i>) <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lollipops, 1/per child & teacher	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult and children paper people, 1 person/child• Crayons or markers• Scissors• Tape <p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key verse & map printed sheet, 1/child• Boy and girl die-cut stickers, 1/child• Crayons or markers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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God chose to use people to tell His good news. We read in Matthew the mission given to the disciples and to all Christians. This Great Commission commands us to teach other people about what Jesus did and to teach them to follow God and His commandments. We are all responsible to tell others about the relationship they can have because of Jesus' death on the cross. Jesus promised that as we do His work He will always be with us. The book of Acts (chapter 2) says that the disciples received the Holy Spirit to help (John 14:6) them as they told others about Jesus.

"'But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away.' All along he had planned to depart in order to carry on his work in other bodies. Their bodies. Our bodies. The new body of Christ.

"At the time the disciples had no idea what Jesus meant. How can it be good that he is going away? They ate the 'body, broken for you' without comprehending the drastic change, that the mission God had assigned to the Son, the Son was now entrusting to them. 'As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world,' Jesus prayed.

"Jesus left few traces of himself on earth. He wrote no books or even pamphlets. A wanderer, he left no home or even belongings that could be enshrined in a museum. He did not marry, settle down, and begin a dynasty. We would, in fact, know nothing about him except for the traces he left in human beings. That was his design. The law and the prophets had focused like a beam of light on the One who was to come, and now that light, as if hitting a prism, would fracture and shoot out in a human spectrum of waves and colors.

"...Would it be too much to say that, ever since the Ascension, Jesus has sought other bodies in which to begin again the life he lived on earth? The church serves as an extension of the Incarnation, God's primary way of establishing presence in the world...

"The church is where God lives. What Jesus brought to a few—healing, grace, the good-news message of God's love—the church can now bring to all. That was the challenge, or Great Commission, that Jesus gave just before vanishing from the numbed disciples' sight. 'Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies,' he had explained earlier, 'it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.' Propagation by the dandelion method.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

- **The week before class:** Note that teachers are responsible to bring video or book as a prop for the Introduction.

Activity Stations:

- **Craft – Paper People**
 - **Instructions:** Have children choose a paper person. Cut out their person from the page and let them color it. Put tape on the back of each person.
- **Research – Who in the World Needs to Know Jesus?**
 - **Instructions:** Look through From Arapesh to Zuni and have the children choose a couple of people groups to read about. Find their location in It's a Big Big World Atlas. Have the children tell you what they would tell those children about Jesus.

(Hold up the video or book and ask if anyone has ever seen this movie or read this book. Allow time for the children to talk about it.) Did you have fun telling us about it? Do you like to tell your friends when you get new toys or go on special trips? I like to tell people about <<tell the children about something fun you did>>. Today we are going to learn about some good news that Jesus told his friends. Jesus did something wonderful and He wanted His friends to tell everyone about it. Who can tell us what special thing Jesus did? (He died on the cross for our bad choices so we could have a friendship with God.) Isn't that great news?

Object Lesson

Instructions: Ask for a volunteer. Give that child a lollipop. Tell that child to pick out two more children to come up and get a lollipop. Have those two children each pick two children to come up and get a lollipop. Each child should have a chance to receive a lollipop and then pick two children to each get a lollipop. It may work out that the last child will have to pick an adult in order to be able to give a lollipop to someone.

Did you have fun sharing the lollipops? Isn't it fun to share something good? What do you like to share with your friends? (Allow the children time to answer.) Do you know that there is something even better to share than candy or toys? We can share Jesus with others. Jesus is the best thing we can share with people. We share Jesus with others when we tell them that Jesus died on the cross so we can be God's children. If we tell Jesus we know we make bad choices and want Him to forgive us, not only do we get to be His children now, but we also will go to heaven to live with Him forever after we die. So you see, Jesus is way better than candy! Candy only lasts for a little while, but life with Jesus lasts forever and ever and ever! Jesus wants everyone in the whole world to know Him and follow Him. Jesus wants us to share this good news with our friends just like we shared our yummy candy.

Transition

Go get the paper people you made a few minutes ago. When you find your person, come sit down.

Lesson Lg. Group

(Hold up the world atlas from the Activity Station.) Jesus wants everyone in the whole world to know Him and follow Him. So who can know Jesus? (Open the atlas to the page with the whole map.) One at a time, you can each bring up your person to place on the map. (Tell each child the name of the continent where they have placed their person.) What does Jesus want this person to do? (He wants this person to know Him and follow Him.)

Jesus wants everyone in the whole world to know Him and follow Him. The book of Matthew in the Bible tells us that before Jesus went up to Heaven to be with God he said to His friends, "So go and make followers of all people in the world... Teach them to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always..."

The Bible tells us that we can ask God to forgive us through Jesus's payment on the cross. We can thank God for how He forgives all our bad choices so we can be His children and go to heaven some day. God wants to be our friend! And wants other people to know his love too!

Transition

Let's get into small groups to talk more and pray about how Jesus wants everyone to know Him.

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

Let's talk about what we've just learned:

- Who can know Jesus?
- What does Jesus want every person on earth to do?
- If you know Jesus, what can you share with your friends?

Let's pray together now. Let's thank Jesus for dying on the cross. We can also thank God that we can tell our friends that Jesus died on the cross so we could be forgiven. If you have questions about what this means, please feel free to ask a teacher!

Transition

Let's make a craft to remind us that Jesus wants everyone to know Him and follow Him.

Learning Activity# 3 Lg. Group

Craft – "Go and make followers..."

Instructions: Give each child a die-cut child sticker and a map with the key verse. Color the map and the child. Place the child where desired on the map. While they are working, discuss the needs of the children around the world. They are the same as our needs – food, clothing, a place to live, safety, friends, Jesus. Talk about how the children can go tell others about Jesus and that they can pray for people all over the world to know Jesus.