



THE GREAT COMMISSION

Young Preschool • #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 Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Inflatable globe</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">• Small lollipops, 1/child & teacher <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Velcro, 10'/room</i>	<p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Jesus Wants Everyone..." printed sheet, 1/child• Markers• "Smiley face" stickers, several/child

*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

Young Preschool • #NT26

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.

"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

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

Activity Stations:

- **Action Song [1]**
 - **Instructions:** Sing the following song to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” Pretend to travel in the various modes of transportation as they sing the verses. Hold up the globe beach ball and tell the children that they can pretend to go many places, even around the world, in the various modes of transportation. Point to Columbus, Ohio and then some other locations on the globe.

Drive, drive, drive my car,
I drive it here and there.
I love to drive my special car,
I drive it everywhere.

Fly, fly, fly my plane
To countries far away.
I love to fly my special plane,
And meet new friends all day.

Ride, ride, ride my bike
I ride it down the street.
I love to ride my special bike,
And to my friends I speak.

Float, float, float my boat
In water sparkling blue.
I love to float my special boat,
Don't you love it too?

[1] Adapted from Gayle Bittinger, Mary Ann Hodge, & Jenny Cooper Rose, *Terrific Tips for Toddler Teachers*, © 1998 by Totline Publications, “Movement Games 9,” p. 83.

Introduction Lg. Group

(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?

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

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

Come sit down for our lesson while you eat your lollipop.

Lesson Lg. Group

(Hold up the globe from the Activity Station.) Jesus wants everyone in the whole world to know Him and follow Him. So who can know Jesus? (Point to the whole map.) What does Jesus want every person to do? (He wants every person to know Him and follow Him.)

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

Jesus wants us to ask Him to forgive us. He wants us to thank God that He will forgive all our bad choices so we can be His children and go to heaven some day. Raise your hand if you want to be God's friend. Raise your hand if you want all your friends to be God's friend.

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. If you have questions about what this means, please feel free to ask a teacher.

Transition

Let's color a picture of people from all around the world to remind us that Jesus wants everyone to know Him and follow Him.

Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

Craft – "Jesus wants everyone to know Him and follow Him"

Instructions: Give each child a "Jesus wants everyone to know Him and follow Him" sheet and several smiley face stickers. Color the page and put stickers where desired. While they are working, discuss how the children can pray for people all over the world to know Jesus.

Learning Activity# 3 Lg. Group

Go tell others about Jesus

Instructions: Make a curved path on the carpet with the Velcro. Have the children walk the path and sing "Oh, do you know Jesus, do you know Jesus, do you know Jesus, He wants to be your friend." To the tune of "Do You know the Muffin Man." They can pretend they are going to tell people about Jesus. They can try hopping, tiptoeing, and marching as they go.