



THE GREAT COMMISSION

KEY VERSES

"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." Matthew 28:19,20

BIBLICAL BASIS

Matthew 9:37; 28:16-20; Acts 1:6-11; 2 Timothy 2:2

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus commands all believers to make disciples and carry on the Christian faith.

AIMS OF THIS SESSION

During this session you will guide students to:

- Examine the words of Jesus in the Great Commission;

- Discover how the Great Commission relates to every person;
- Implement a lifestyle of following the Great Commission in their lives.

WARM UP

BLIBS—

A funny twist on the stories of two biblical characters.

TEAM EFFORT— JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOOD NEWS/ BAD NEWS—

Students experience good news and bad news.

TEAM EFFORT— HIGH SCHOOL

MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT—

A look at what it means to be used by God.

IN THE WORD

FULFILLING THE COMMISSION—

A Bible study on the Great Commission.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

Questions to get students thinking and talking about fulfilling the Great Commission.

PARENT PAGE

A tool to get the session into the home and allow parents and young people to discuss sharing the good news of Jesus.



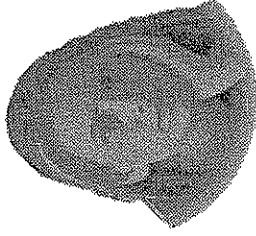
LEADER'S DEVOTIONAL

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others” (2 Timothy 2:2).

Every Wednesday morning at 5:45 A.M., a small group of five senior guys and I would crawl out of bed to meet at Bakers Square for an early morning breakfast Bible study before school. We met almost every week for a whole school year to study the Gospel of John. As we talked about the importance of following Jesus on a daily basis, three of the five guys seriously took that to heart. Now, as college students, exciting things are happening as Craig, Shane and Charles continue to fulfill the Great Commission. Craig went to Costa Rica on a month-long college mission trip and has served as a rock climbing instructor at a Christian camp. Shane has traveled to Haiti as a medical missionary. Serving junior high and high school students, Charles has faithfully learned to lead teenagers into personal relationships with Christ. (The two others? Unfortunately, one dropped out of sight and the other went to college and became a Communist. Three outta five ain't bad!)

Paul's admonition to Timothy to find reliable men qualified to carry out the Great Commission is an important reminder of what our task is as youth workers. God wants you to be a developer of people; a disciple-maker who influences young people to bring others to Christ. The mark of an effective youth worker is not how many students are in his or her youth group, but how many students actually become disciples of Jesus Christ. The most important investment of your time and energy is discipling young people to carry out the Great Commission. That's something that they can do on their campuses, in their homes, on their sports teams and at their places of work. Young people can make a powerful difference for God in everything they do. God wants to use teenagers for His kingdom and His glory today. The Great Commission is not reserved for adults only. That's a wonderful message you get to share with the students you serve! (Written by Joey O'Connor.)

**Nothing can be made
more plain than that God
is bent on the conquest
of the world....God can
employ all methods but
chiefly loves to work men
upon men.—
Charles Wesley**



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BIBLICAL BASIS

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THE BIG IDEA

Jesus commands all believers to make disciples and carry on the Christian faith.

WARM UP (5-10 MINUTES)

BLUES

• Have students provide the appropriate type of word to complete the following paragraphs. Read each aloud when all the blanks are completed.

Jonah

And it came to pass that Jonah, a (adjective) man, was asked by the Lord to go to (place) and to tell all the people there that they should turn from their evil (nouns). But Jonah, because he was (adjective), refused to go, and instead decided to travel by (mode of transportation) to (place). However, while Jonah was asleep under the (noun) the Lord caused the sea to be (adjective) and decided to throw Jonah into the (liquid). As Jonah swam for his life, he was swallowed by a (animal). And Jonah found himself inside its giant (part of body). Jonah begged the Lord for forgiveness, and

Fold

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After the resurrection of Jesus, His disciples returned to Galilee where Jesus said He would meet them. While in Galilee He gave His disciples the Great Commission just before ascending into heaven. Each part of the Great Commission had real significance to the disciples, and has just as much relevance to you, His disciple, today.

Let us investigate each section of the Great Commission and write out why it is significant.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (v. 18). On what basis could Jesus give this commission?

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (v. 19). What does it mean to make disciples? How would you do that?

"Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (v. 19). What significance does baptism have in this process?

"Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (v. 20). What would this teaching include?

"And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age" (v. 20). What is the significance of Jesus' being with you?

The Great Commission and You

Who in your life needs your love, care and witness of Jesus Christ? List three people.

When Christ ascended into heaven, He entrusted the job of making disciples to people like yourself. What makes this Great Commission such an awesome task?

How do Jesus' words in Matthew 28:20 assure you of His help?

SO WHAT?

What can you do to begin to fulfill the Great Commission during this next week?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

- Use the questions on page 145 after or as a part of "In the Word."
- 1. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20 is about evangelism and disciple making. How do both of those issues fit into the Great Commission?
- 2. What fears do people have when it comes to telling others about Jesus Christ?
- 3. What challenges does the Great Commission give you personally?

PARENT PAGE

- Distribute page to parents.

was then given a second (noun). He was thrown up on the
 (noun) and with a smile across his
 (part of body), Jonah went to do as he was told.

Noah

Many years ago, the Lord looked upon the people of the earth and saw that they were
 very (adjective). So the Lord decided to send a great
 (noun) that would cover the entire
 (adjective) man, and the Lord said to
 Noah, "Noah, go build yourself a (noun). Go out and gather
 up both male and female of every living (noun) and put them
 inside the (noun)." So Noah did as God instructed. And when
 he was (adjective), the (liquid) began to fall
 from the (noun). All of the (adjective) people
 began to cry out, (exclamation), but it did them no good.
 (number) days later, the storm stopped. Noah sent a
 (animal) out of the window to see if the ground was
 (adjective). It flew back with a (noun)
 in its (part of body) and the Lord sent a
 (adjective) rainbow to let Noah know that never again would
 He destroy the world with (noun).

**TEAM EFFORT—JUNIOR HIGH/
 MIDDLE SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)**

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
 - Have student complete the following statements five different ways so that they are funny and five different ways so that they are serious: The good news is...; the bad news is....
 - Students share responses.
 - Ask the following questions:
 How does it feel to receive good news?
 How does it feel to receive bad news?
- Read Matthew 28:16-20. What elements of good news are in the Great Commission?

TEAM EFFORT—HIGH SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "Make Me an Instrument" on page 141 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete their pages.

"He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few'" (Matthew 9:37).
 Francis of Assisi was a wealthy, highborn man who lived hundreds of years ago. He felt that his life was incom-
 plete, and even though he had more than enough wealth, he was a very unhappy man. One day, while he was out
 riding, he met a leper. The leper was loathsome and repulsive in the ugliness of his disease. Something moved
 Francis to dismount and fling his arms around this person. In the arms of Francis, the leper's face changed into the
 face of Christ. Francis was never the same again.

Francis of Assisi spent the rest of his life serving his Lord Jesus Christ. He wrote these famous words as a prayer
 to God from the heart of a man who had a deep desire to be an instrument of God's will on this earth:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

What does Jesus mean in Matthew 9:37?

Can you think of any biblical characters with a similar story to Francis of Assisi's?

Can you think of any modern-day people with a similar story?

What makes this prayer of Francis of Assisi so important to all who want to follow Jesus?

Read Matthew 28:16-20. How does Francis of Assisi's prayer fit into the Great Commission?

IN THE WORD (25-30 MINUTES)

FULFILLING THE COMMISSION

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "Fulfilling the Commission" on page 143 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete the Bible study.
 "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw
 him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 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
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T TEAM EFFORT

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PARENT PAGE



THE GREAT COMMISSION

THE GREAT COMMISSION AND THE ASCENSION

"So when they met together, they asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

"He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

"They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'" (Acts 1:6-11).

What is the vital importance of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit?

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How are Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:8 related?

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What are all Christians commanded to do?

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What can we as a family do to follow the Great Commission?

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Session 9 "The Great Commission"
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