



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

April 26-27, 2014

DATE

The Great Commission

LESSON TITLE

Acts 1:1-11; Matthew 28:16-20

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus gave us a special job: to show others how to follow him.

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

Kids need to feel heard. If they ask you something, even if it's not timed well, stop and respond positively.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to show their parents the sticker they drew—and tell them why they made it.

## large group heads up

Today, we're reviewing the story of Jesus' rescue and examining the special job Jesus gave us (the Great Commission). We're also talking about practical ways to do that job! Ahead of time, spend some time praying about Matthew 28:18-20.



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### SHARE THE FUN!

*\*Probably easiest to play in small groups.*

- Give each kid one “jewel”
- Have kids sit in circles (in whatever size groups work best for your room)
- Put the jewels in a pile in the middle of the circle.
- **Game play:** Ask questions about things kids love (below). As soon as they have an answer they want to share, they should grab their jewel. Then go around and let them share if they want. Feel free to ask about their answers or ask why they have a particular favorite.
  - What's the best movie ever made?
  - Tell me the name of the best band or singer.
  - Which (sports) team is your favorite?
  - What's the most fun video game?
  - Is school or summer better?
- **Put jewels back for the following service to use**
- If you have extra time, ask kids about the best/worst parts of their week

**Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) review the story of Jesus' Rescue, (2) recognize that Jesus gave us a special job to tell others about him and (3) identify ways we can teach others about Jesus.

**Why?** Making disciples is a command Jesus gave us. We want kids to think about how to do that.

**Tip:** One great thing about this story is that it reminds us that Jesus gives us all authority to make disciples. There's not one "right way" to do it. Be honest with kids about how *you* follow Jesus and tell others about him.

## small group

### REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER

**\*Try this for a more engaged discussion: tell kids you're going to ask a question. Then give a beanbag to somebody and it's their job to answer. Then, everybody has to listen carefully to the next question. The kid with the "beanbag" must toss it to someone else.**

1. Tell me what happened after Jesus died on the cross and came back to life. (Let kids use the **images sheet**; if you don't have much time, review *quickly*).
2. Before Jesus went back up to Heaven, he gave his followers a special job, a great command. What was it? (3 parts)
3. How do we become a follower of Jesus?
  - a. Make the choice. You could say something like this: "Jesus, I have done wrong things. But I believe you took my punishment and rescued me. I want to follow you and one day live with you forever."
4. What does it mean to make disciples?
5. What does it mean to get baptized?
6. Why does Jesus want his followers to get baptized?
7. Why did Jesus give us this command?

### APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Sharing our faith (what we believe about Jesus) can be hard. Let's talk about some ways to do it. How can we teach others to follow Jesus and obey him?

- Tear off two large sheets of paper and place it in the middle of your group.
- Split kids in two teams
- They should write/draw as many examples as they can think of how they can teach others to follow Jesus. To make it more competitive, time them! Give them examples and brainstorm new ideas:

(Continue on the following page)

- Get baptized so everyone knows you follow Jesus
- Let a friend choose what to play next time you're together
- Go home and tell somebody what you learned in Kids' Club
- Invite a friend to come with you to Kids' Club
- Tell a friend who's sad that you'll pray for them
- Encourage kids to think of other ways they can show Jesus' love. Remind them that there are many, many ways to teach others to follow Jesus.
- Let teams choose their three favorites and share. Then ask: **Is it hard or easy to show somebody how to follow Jesus? Explain.**
- Give each kid a sticker (use the scissors to cut in between them). Tell them to draw/write ONE of the ways their team came up with that they think they can do this week.
- Kids can take the sticker home and put it somewhere to remind them to obey Jesus' command and show others how to follow him.

Have kids share what they wrote/drew. **Then pray together, asking God to help each kid make disciples and teach others to follow Jesus this week (refer to the specific things they drew on their stickers).**

*Extra time? Ask kids if they have any questions about Jesus' Rescue. (Do your best to answer, but feel free to say you don't know.) You could also play Pictionary, using ways to follow Jesus from your team posters. Or gather around the screen and re-watch today's video.*

## special notes

The goal today is to thoroughly review Jesus' rescue, then dive deep into the Great Commission (the "special job" Jesus gave us).

## presenter tips

Make sure to communicate that there are *many* ways to share the good news of Jesus!

## script

Hi everybody, welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. You guys have been out there talking about your favorite things! That looks fun. Why are you telling people what movies or teams or activities you like? (Let kids respond.) Oh, that makes sense—you want other people to be able to enjoy them. We share stuff we care about, don't we? Maybe we tell people when we're excited, like if we win our favorite video game...or tell people when we're frustrated, like when a teacher gives out extra homework.

We all have different things we like and don't like and different styles of fun. But is there anything so exciting and joyful that you think EVERYONE should know about it? (Let kids respond.) You're right, there is! The good news of Jesus' rescue is something that EVERYONE should know!

### REVIEW

Let's take a minute to remember why Jesus' rescue is so great. **(picture of the cross)** Remember, the wrong things we do—sins—separate us from God. But Jesus came and took OUR punishment. Then he came back to life, which means he's stronger than death! That means death—or punishment—can't separate us from God...and we can be close to him again and one day live with him forever.

Let's watch a video to remember how Jesus rescued us. We always talk about how exciting it is that Jesus has rescued us. So as you watch, I want you to try think of ONE thing about Jesus' rescue that makes you really, really excited. We'll talk about those things after the video.

### Video: God's Story / Jesus' Rescue

Wow, so what are some of the things about Jesus' rescue that make you really excited? (Let kids respond. Share your own idea too—what makes YOU most excited?)



## script continued

When we choose to say something like, “Jesus, I have done wrong things. But I believe you took my punishment. I want to follow you,” we instantly become part of God’s family. And one of the most exciting parts—if not THE most exciting part—of Jesus’ rescue, is that he’s preparing a home for God’s family to live in with him forever.

### THE GREAT COMMISSION

This is fantastic news! So Jesus doesn’t want his rescue to be a secret. He wants EVERYONE to know about it, so that anyone can choose to be part of his family. In fact, in the Bible, before Jesus went back to Heaven, he gave his followers a special job. It’s called the Great Commission, which means an important command. It’s for us too, if we follow Jesus:

**SLIDE: Matthew 28:18-20 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 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.”**

### MAKING DISCIPLES

Let’s look at that for a second. Jesus said to go and make disciples. Does anybody know what a disciple is? (Let kids say: somebody who follows Jesus.) That’s right, somebody who follow Jesus. So Jesus is saying, “Go and show people how to follow me!”

### BAPTIZING THEM

Then he said to baptize people and teach them to obey him. What is baptism? (Let kids respond: **click to show gif**). Yes, it’s when somebody goes into the water and comes back out. Kind of like how Jesus was buried and came back to life. It shows that a person wants to be like Jesus by following him. Baptism is like a BIG announcement. It’s like somebody saying, “I follow Jesus.”

Now, why did Jesus tell us *baptize* people? (Let kids respond.) Well, baptism is a lot like telling people what you believe, what you care about, who you follow.

Think about other ways we can show others what we think. (**show picture of a Reds jersey**). For example, if I wore this shirt, what would you know about me? (Let kids respond). Yeah, you’d know I follow the Reds, even if I never said a word. When a person is baptized, it’s kind of like that: we know they follow Jesus. Just like wearing this shirt is a way to show lots of people I’m a Reds fan, getting baptized is a way to show others you follow Jesus.

Now, we can choose to wear or not wear this shirt. Reds players probably *want* us to wear it, but nobody is going to command us to do it. But does Jesus command us to get baptized if we follow him? (**Click forward to show verse again**) Jesus says that when a person chooses to follow him (become a disciple), he or she should get baptized and then obey Jesus. And if we already follow Jesus, we get to teach people how to do that!

### TEACHING PEOPLE TO OBEY JESUS

So if Jesus told us to teach people how to follow and obey him, we’re going to need to know



### script continued

how to teach something, right? So I'm going to teach you something. Everybody stand up! I think it would be fun for you to learn some dance moves!

*(Stand perfectly still as you describe dance moves. You can make up your own or use these):*  
Step the right; swing your arms to the right as you step. Now go left while swinging your arms to left. To the right again. To the left again.

Wow, you guys didn't do so well... How 'bout I show you? Follow along with me: (do the dance moves this time, as the kids follow. Speak as necessary but make sure to *show* everything you tell them). That was so much better! Thanks, guys. You can have a seat.

Was it easier the first time or the second? Hold up 1 finger or 2. (Let kids respond. Hopefully, they hold up 2 fingers). Yeah, it was WAY easier the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, right?

And you know what? Teaching dance moves is a lot like showing somebody how to follow Jesus. To really teach them—to really obey Jesus' command, we have *show* them how to do it by following Jesus yourself! Of course, we'll mess up sometimes, but that's why Jesus died to rescue us! We can always repent—turn away from our mistakes and wrong choices—and turn back toward God and follow Jesus again!

### **WORSHIP**

Let's worship together and thank Jesus for his rescue! When we think about how much Jesus loves us, it often makes us more excited to obey his command.

**Song: Better Than the Best**

**Song: Come With Me**

### **PRAY**

Ask somebody to ask God to help us teach others how to follow and obey him!



**script continued**



# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

1 jewel per kid (can be re-used): OT: IN-48/6990

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## small group supplies

- Markers
  - Bible
  - 1 beanbag per small group
  - 2 sheets of story images per small group (printed in color)
  - stopwatch
  - 2 tear-off sheets of paper per large group
- use something like this:  
<http://www.ebay.com/itm/9-ROLLS-BLANK-DIRECT-THERMAL-LABELS-4-x-6-Top-Coat-/350574145361> (could also go to ebay and search "4x6 label rolls")
  - scissor (for small group leader to easily separate stickers for kids)

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## large group supplies

none

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## a/v needs

1. Image: cross
2. Video: God's Story / Jesus' Rescue
3. SLIDE: Matthew 28:18-20 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 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."
4. Gif: baptism
5. Image: Reds jersey
6. SLIDE (again): Matthew 28:18-20 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 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."
7. Song: Better than the Best with dance moves
8. Song: Come With Me (with musicians)

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## connect questions

Tell me about the Great Commission.  
How will you show others how to follow Jesus?

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## parent page

NEW APRIL PARENT PAGES