



Family Lesson 71

Principle: Make disciples

Bible Character(s): Jesus Christ and the disciples

Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:16-20

1. Worship - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

2. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Today, we will spend time looking at what God has instructed us to do, how to do it, and what keeps us from following through and obeying the commission. We will be reminded that Jesus promises to be with us always. As a family, make a list of people you know who may not know that Jesus loves them and that he died for their sin. Save this for later.

We have learned some amazing things over the past couple of weeks. Can you remember what all we have learned? We have seen Jesus choose to follow God's will, even though it meant great pain and suffering for him. We have seen him hang on a cross, even though it was very painful. We learned that as he hung on the cross, he took our sin on himself. He could do this because he had lived a perfect life—he never sinned. He took our punishment so that our sin could be paid for. Now, we do not have to be separated from God. Jesus defeated death when he rose from the dead.

Today, we will see what Jesus told his disciples after he rose again. Let's begin reading the Bible in Matthew 28 [NLT].

Matthew 28:16-17

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

What is the first thing the disciples do when they see Jesus? (Allow responses.) **Worship him! However, what do some of the disciples struggle with?** (Allow responses.) **Some of the disciples still have doubts, even though they have been following Jesus and have heard all of his teaching. They do not fully understand what has just happened or what will happen next. They still are not sure what Jesus' death and resurrection really mean for them.**

Let's continue reading the Bible to see what Jesus tells the disciples.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

What is a disciple? (Allow responses.) **A disciple is a follower of Jesus. What does it mean to "make a disciple"?** (Allow responses.) **Jesus means for us to teach others about him and show them how to follow him. He wants us to share with everyone how much Jesus loves them. He wants to use us to let everyone know how much God loves them. It is only through believing and trusting in Jesus that we can be saved and live forever with him. We know Jesus gave this**

job to his disciples who lived at the same time as him. What do you think this means for us? (Allow responses.)

Jesus told the disciples they should spend their lives telling others about him. Are these directions just for those disciples? (Allow responses.) **No! These are instructions for us as well! When we believe and trust that Jesus died and rose from the dead, God tells us to share this amazing news with others.**

Where are we to go? (We are to go everywhere, to all nations.) **What are we to do?** (We are to “make disciples.”) **How do we make disciples?** (By telling others about who Jesus is, what he has done for us, and how much he loves us.) **Then, we can show them how to follow Jesus. When a person believes in Jesus, the Bible tells us they should be baptized as a symbol that they believe. We also need to teach new believers what baptism is. We teach you how to follow Jesus, or how to be a disciple. We are to share Christ with others and walk alongside them, teaching them all that we know.**

We do not have to fear what others think; we are loved by God, and his acceptance and love is all we need. He will always be with us; he will always love us. We can remember this at all times so that we can share our faith and God’s love with others and not be afraid. Let’s spend a few minutes in prayer over the people we have listed, praying that we would have the confidence and courage to share Jesus with them. We will pray for their hearts to be opened to what God has done for them and recognize their need for him.

Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Ask God to help your child to be bold in talking about what Jesus has done for them. Pray that we are not afraid to talk to others about God’s love and forgiveness.

Activity

What is Stopping You? —the purpose of this activity is to identify what keeps us from obeying The Great Commission.

Supplies:
Situations guide (found on [GCK Resource Page](#))

Read through the situations and see if your child can identify whether the person in the example is obeying the Great Commission or not. Establish one side of the room as obeying the Great Commission, and the opposite side of the room as not obeying the Great Commission. Tell your child to go to the side of the room that they think displays what the person is doing in the example. If the person is not obeying the Great Commission, ask your child to identify why (most of the answers will be fear.)

We saw examples of how to obey the Great Commission. These are all things you can do. We also saw examples of how someone was not obeying the Great Commission. What was the main reason the people in these situations did not share their belief in Jesus with others? (Allow responses.) **Fear. Does fear usually keep you from sharing your faith with others?** (Allow responses.) **Most of the time, we are afraid of what other people will think. This keeps us from loving others or telling them about Jesus. But we are all sinners, and we all need Jesus. We need to tell others about the Good News that comes through what Jesus did for us. God wants to use us to change someone’s life.**

How do you think we can share what we believe even when we are afraid? (Allow responses.) **We can trust Jesus. He loves us, and he is with us always. Whenever we are afraid to talk about Jesus, we can remember the love Jesus has for us and know that there is no reason to be afraid.**

