



## LESSON 71

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Principle: Make Disciples.

Bible Character(s): Jesus Christ and the disciples

Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:16-20



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, read through Matthew 28:16-20.

Jesus has defeated death through His resurrection, and now He calls His disciples to make disciples of all people by preaching the Gospel. Jesus displays the Father's desire to use His children to spread His good news. God does not need to use us, but He has chosen to use us.

As you prepare, think about how God wants to use you to spread His kingdom throughout the world. Do you struggle with sharing your faith with others? Why? What fears do you need to turn into trust and dependence on God in order to give of yourself for the sake of the Gospel? What are ways that you have learned to fulfill the Great Commission, despite fear or other obstacles? Has the change and growth you have experienced in your life through Christ given you the desire to share your faith with those around you? Spend a few minutes in prayer, asking God to reveal how you can grow in your confidence to share your faith. Also ask God to prepare your camper's hearts for this lesson.

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

### As a Class...

Make a list of people (on the white board) you know who may not know that Jesus loves them and that He died for their sin. Save this for later.

### What is a Disciple Word Search

\*\* Campers will use other parts of this worksheet later in the lesson.



## BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

### The Bridge to Small Group

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.

## Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

### Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn from Big Group? Why did Noah Direction have all of those books? (He was trying to figure out what he was here to do, what his special job was.) What did Noah Direction learn about what God wants for us? (He learned that our most important job is to share our faith and tell others about Jesus, the Great Commission.)

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

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

<sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

What was the first thing the disciples did when they saw Jesus? (Allow responses.) Worship Him! However, what did some of the disciples struggle with? (Allow responses.) Some of the disciples still had doubts, even though they had been following Jesus and had heard all of His teaching. They did not fully understand what had just happened or what would happen next. They still were not sure what Jesus' death and resurrection really meant for them.

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

## Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> 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."

Jesus told His disciples that they were to "go and make disciples of all the nations," baptize them, and teach them to obey all of the commands Jesus gave them. Jesus had the ability to give this command because He is God; God the Father gave Him all authority in heaven and earth, and therefore He is in control of all things. Jesus gave them the responsibility to share their faith with others so that others could come to know 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.)

## The Great Commission is to...



The purpose of this activity is to examine the Great Commission

### Supplies:

Matthew 28:19-20 in envelope (1 per bin)

Whiteboard

Open the envelope with the message for the campers. Once you have read the message, ask the campers to tell you what Jesus told the disciples to do, and write the instructions on the whiteboard.

## Tie It Together



Jesus told the disciples what they are to do with their life. He told them their response to His death and resurrection, and belief in Him as their Savior, should be to go out and make disciples by sharing their faith with others. Do you think this applies just to those disciples? (Allow responses.) No it doesn't! These are our instructions as well! When we believe and trust that Jesus died and was resurrected, we are commanded to share our faith and tell others this amazing news. Jesus gives us the responsibility to spread the kingdom of God to the world.

Let's look at Jesus' instructions in more detail.

## Making Disciples



The purpose of this activity is to understand Jesus' instructions.

### Supplies:

Worksheet - "Making Disciples" section (1 per camper)

As you talk through verses 18-20 help them fill the blanks in with the following phrases:  
You and the world

To all nations  
By teaching and baptizing  
The need for a Savior

## Tie It Together



Where are we to go? (We are to go everywhere, to all nations.) What are we to do? (We are to “make disciples”.) What is a disciple? How do we make disciples? (A disciple is someone who believes in Jesus and follows Him. For others to believe, they need to hear about Jesus and learn about what He has done for us through His love.) Jesus calls us to love others and tell them what Jesus has done for them. We also need to teach new believers about baptism. When a person believes in Jesus, the Bible tells us to be baptized as a symbol that you believe. Teaching what it means to be a disciple is part of what we do in Camp Grace. We teach you how to follow Jesus, how to be a disciple. This is what Jesus has commanded anyone who is a believer to do. We are to share Christ with others and then walk alongside them, teaching them all that we know.

## What is Stopping You?



The purpose of this activity is to identify what keeps us from obeying The Great Commission.

### Supplies:

Situations guide (1 per bin)

Obeying sign (1 per bin)

Not obeying sign (1 per bin)

Read through the situations and see if the campers 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 by hanging the signs. Tell the campers 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 the campers to identify why (most of the answers will be fear.)

## Tie It Together



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 for why the people in these situations were not sharing their faith with others? (Allow responses.) Fear. Does fear what keep you from sharing your faith with others? (Allow responses.) Most of the time, we are afraid of what other people will think or how they will respond. This keeps us from loving others or telling them about Jesus. How do you think we can get past our fear and share our faith with others? (Allow responses.)

1 John 4:18 says,

*“Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.”*

We are all sinners. We all need a Savior, Jesus. Someone told you about Jesus. He is the only way to

be saved from our sin and restore our relationship with God. Should we keep this to ourselves? (Allow responses.) God wants to use us to change other people's lives. We need to tell others the Good News that comes through what Jesus did for us. We can remember that Jesus loves us and His love has no fear. We can trust that Jesus is always with us and He loves us no matter what. Whenever we are afraid to share our faith, we can remember the love Jesus has for us and know that there is no reason to be afraid.

## Never Alone



The purpose of this activity is to reinforce verse 20.

### Supplies:

Worksheet - "The Great Commission" section (1 per camper)

Markers/crayons

Have the campers color the traffic light on the worksheet. Explain to them what each color means and have them fill in the blank for each color.

RED – don't stop telling others

YELLOW – don't slow down or be afraid

GREEN – go tell others about Jesus.

Remind the campers that Jesus is always with us, and we can share Him with others without being afraid.

## Tie It Together



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. God calls those who believe in Jesus as their Savior to be His disciple so that His kingdom can be spread throughout the world. We have an amazing privilege and opportunity to be a part of God's plan. Let's spend a few minutes in prayer over the people we have listed on our white board, 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 recognizing their need for Him.

## Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help the campers 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.



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