

LESSON 12

THE GREAT COMMISSION



BEFORE YOU TEACH

Jesus' Disciples

Not long after Jesus started His ministry, He chose twelve people to be His disciples. From then onwards, the twelve disciples experienced life daily as Jesus' close companions. They followed Him wherever He went, assisted with His work, witnessed His miracles and listened to His teachings. Among them, Peter, James, and John were considered the closest within the inner circle of Jesus' followers.

The names of the twelve disciples are recorded in Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:14-16 and Acts 1:13. Although they appear in slightly different order, it is interesting to note that each list begins with Simon Peter and ends with Judas Iscariot (except for Acts 1 since Judas had already killed himself by then). The list of the twelve apostles as described in Matthew is: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (of Alphaeus), Thaddeus (also known as Judas of James), Simon (the Cananite or Zealot) and Judas Iscariot.

The twelve disciples were also known later as the Apostles. The general meaning of apostle means "to send forth." Since they personally witnessed Jesus' death and resurrection, the apostles were sent by Jesus to preach about His salvation. The Apostles were to lead others to be faithful and lifelong followers of Jesus, just as they were. As teachers today, not only should we be exemplary in following Jesus' footsteps, we should also lead our students so that they can grow to become faithful disciples of the Lord.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

We live in a society where the majority subscribes to the concept of "seeing is believing." Many in this world probably feel the same way as Thomas felt when he asked to see Jesus' wounds. Thomas wanted proof, something that he could see and touch for himself. But Jesus reminded him that, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Most of our students have likely been baptized through their parents and have yet to fully appreciate the saving power of Jesus. Jesus' ascension and second coming may seem abstract or distant to them. Remind the students that Jesus will abundantly bless those who have unwavering faith. Help our students to develop their faith such that they are able to progress to believing the things that are unseen. When our students have more conviction about Jesus' salvation and promise, they will gradually develop a sense of commission to testify for Jesus and to serve Him.

BIBLE TEXT

John 21:1-18; Acts 1:1-11

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus ascended to heaven but will return one day to reward those who have fulfilled His commission.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To remember our commission to share the good news of Jesus with others and to be concerned over our brethren.
2. To achieve our commission through the power and the strength of the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon on you."

(Acts 1:8a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord, we thank You that many years ago, You came to this world to save us so that we can go to heaven. Today, we will learn about Your last few days on earth, and about how before You went back to heaven, You instructed us to do two important things for You. Please fill us with Your strength and the power of the Holy Spirit so that we are able to do Your will. May all the glory be given to You. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

commission: an order to do something
ascend: to rise, go up
witness: to testify
resurrected: to have risen from the dead

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about who Jesus appeared to after He resurrected. He appeared to a few people to show them that He was really alive again. He appeared to two of His followers who were on their way to Emmaus. Did they immediately recognize that the person with them was Jesus? No, they didn't. They walked together for the entire trip, and it was not until they ate dinner that the two friends realized that the Man was Jesus. After that, Jesus disappeared. They were so happy that they ran all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Prepares Breakfast for the Disciples

Jesus appeared to the disciples one morning by the Sea of Tiberias. The disciples had been on a fishing boat all night but they were not able to catch any fish. Jesus stood by the shore and asked if they had caught any fish. "No," they said dejectedly, without realizing that it was Jesus talking to them. "Throw your net to the other side of the boat, there will be fish there," Jesus said. The disciples did as they were told and they caught a net full of fish! One hundred and fifty-three in all! Even more amazing was that even though the net was so full that they could not haul it on board their boat, the net did not break! The disciples started to recognize that it was Jesus who spoke to them. After a disciple told Peter that it was Jesus, he quickly put his outer clothes on and jumped into the sea. The others made their way to the shore in the boat, dragging along the full net of fish. When they came on shore, Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." He had already prepared something for them to eat. Do you know what the disciples had for breakfast that day? They had fish and bread that were cooked on top of burning coals, all prepared by the Lord Jesus!

Jesus' Instructions to Peter

After they finished their breakfast, Jesus asked Peter the same question three times.

"Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" Peter replied, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

"Feed My lambs," Jesus then answered.

Jesus asked a second time. "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"

Again, Peter replied, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

This time, Jesus answered, "Tend My sheep."

For one last time, Jesus asked the same question.

"Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"

Peter, sorrowful because Jesus had asked him the same question three times, answered, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

And to that, Jesus said, "Feed My sheep."

Jesus repeatedly asked Peter if he loved Him because He wanted Peter to know that loving Jesus also meant loving Jesus' lambs and sheep. Peter needed to look after and care for them just as Jesus did. Who are the lambs and sheep? They are our brothers and sisters in church, the young and the elderly, the strong and the weak. After asking him to take care of His flock, Jesus then told Peter what would happen to him in the future, that people would take him to places he did not want to go. But Jesus encouraged Peter to follow Jesus no matter what would happen to him in the end.

After seeing Jesus all these times, the disciples now fully believed that Jesus was really alive. They weren't surprised or scared anymore to see Him. Even when He wasn't with them, they knew that He was there in spirit because Jesus had promised to be with them always. This gave them strength to continue to be Jesus' disciples.

Jesus Commissions the Disciples to Preach

About forty days after His resurrection, Jesus knew that His time on earth was nearing the end and that He would be returning to heaven. He wanted to give some last important instructions to His disciples before leaving. He told them to meet Him on a mountain in Galilee. When everyone had arrived, Jesus appeared and spoke to them. Jesus pointed to the land around Him. He said to the disciples,

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Tell them that I am the Savior. Help them learn about Me and teach them to obey Me. But first, wait for the power from above, the power of the Holy Spirit, to come upon you, before you go out to preach." The disciples listened to Jesus carefully as He was giving them these important instructions. After Jesus had finished speaking to them, He ascended into heaven.

boldly preach the gospel and only when we are filled with the Holy Spirit are we able to truly love brothers and sisters with the love of Christ.

The disciples were sad that Jesus was really gone. But at the same time, they were also joyful. Why? Because they were confident that He would come back one day, just as He promised. They returned to Jerusalem with great joy. Finally, after spending all this time with Jesus, they understood why He had chosen them to be His disciples. Jesus had entrusted them with very important work, so they decided to do what Jesus had commanded them to do. But first they needed strength from God. They waited in Jerusalem patiently for the Holy Spirit to come and help them, as Jesus had instructed. They knew that with the power of the Holy Spirit, they would be able to witness and work for Jesus, and when the Spirit had come upon them, they went out and preached the gospel everywhere

Final Thoughts

The Great Commission that Jesus gave to the disciples is the same one that we have also received. Apart from taking care of our brothers and sisters in church, we must preach the gospel so that all people in the world can come to believe. When we successfully take care of the sheep and also add new sheep to the flock of Christ, then we will see the church grow. However, we must remember that the power behind these holy works is not our own abilities but it is the power of the Holy Spirit. Only when we experience the power of the Holy Spirit are we able to

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. What question did Jesus ask Peter three times? "Do you love Me?"
2. What were Jesus' instructions to Peter? Tend my sheep, feed my sheep, and feed my lambs
3. What does it mean to take care of the sheep? Jesus wanted Peter take care of His believers
4. Jesus told His disciples to wait for the _____ (Holy Spirit) to come so that it could help give them the strength to preach.
5. What is the Great Commission? To go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature
6. True or False? Jesus wants all of us to preach His good news. True.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon on you." (Acts 1:8a)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

We are to preach the word of God

Before Jesus left the disciples, He gave them two very important tasks to do. Do you remember what they were?

- (1) To help others know that Jesus is the Savior and that they should obey Him.
- (2) To show love, care, and concern for their brothers and sisters.

Today, we should also keep these two things in mind and do them whenever we can. As Jesus' disciples, we are to preach the message of God both in words and in actions. That said, not only should we tell our friends about Jesus, we also need to shine His light through the ways we live a Christian life. On one hand, we need to preach God's salvation plan—to repent, to believe, to be baptized, and to pray for the Holy Spirit! On the other hand, we need to be a good Christian example for others—to show love, care, and spiritual support to them. If we do all this, we can also become like Jesus' disciples who later became very important workers for the church.

[Ask the students to go through the following list and indicate whether these actions will "help" us with or "hinder" the two important tasks above.] How can we fulfill the commission that the Lord Jesus has entrusted to us?

When we do this...	Does it "help" or "hinder" us from fulfilling our commission?
Make fun of another classmate because of how they dress or look	
Pray for our family and friends who are not church members yet	
Disrupt our parents instead of sit calmly next to them when relatives come to visit	
Read the Bible every day to understand more about God	
Pray for ourselves and others to receive the Holy Spirit	
Throw a tantrum in the shopping mall when Dad or Mom does not buy the things we want	
Tell our friends about how Jesus has helped us and our family	
Make fun of the teacher who is sick and keeps sneezing and blowing her nose	
Offer up our seat on the bus or train for the elderly or those with special needs	
Share our hymn book or Bible with someone new to church or RE class	

Our work as Jesus' disciples will always be remembered and rewarded by God. Revelation 22:12, 14 says, "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." This city refers to the kingdom of heaven. If we do our best to fulfill the great commission that Jesus has entrusted to us in this life, He has promised to take us with Him to the everlasting kingdom at the time of His second coming.

Now, let me share a testimony with you:

A BROKEN LEG

When I was seven years old, I was playing with my sister one day, and I accidentally fell down from the chair. My father immediately took me to the hospital where the doctor told us that my left leg was broken and that I would be completely healed within two weeks. Unexpectedly, we soon found out that the doctor had misdiagnosed my injury and that the resulting treatment had caused my left leg to be paralyzed. My parents brought me to a different hospital, and I had an emergency surgery there on my left leg. Unfortunately, my situation did not get better. I underwent yet another surgery after two weeks of close observation since my leg had shown no sign of recovery. My family was hopeful that there would be good news, but it turned out the doctors concluded that the only course of action after all was to amputate my leg, meaning, to cut it off. And because of my infection that caused me to have high fevers, my parents only had three days to make a decision as my life would be in danger beyond that time. When I awoke from my last surgery and was back in my room, I remember seeing my parents crying. Their sorrow that day is something that I can never forget. It was as if there was no hope left. Since my family was Buddhist, my seventy-year-old grandfather went around to many temples to burn incense and pray for me. However, my condition didn't improve. It became worse and worse. My whole family was extremely sad and worried.

INTRODUCED TO THE TRUTH

Under the arrangement of God, my aunt came to

preach the gospel to us at this time. She was a member of True Jesus Church, and she shared many testimonies with us that encouraged us to seek God's help when we were completely hopeless. Other church members also came to the hospital to visit and pray for me.

As my parents began to have a deeper understanding of God through these visitations, my father attended the Spiritual Convocation one night that happened to be at Taipei Church. Miraculously, when the nurse took my temperature that night, it was down to normal even though the medication had not been changed. The doctors also found out the next day when they were changing bandages on my leg that there might be hope for recovery without amputating my leg. We knew that God had heard our prayers because my condition started to improve steadily ever since my father began to go to church.

In the end, one of the church sisters introduced us to another doctor who later operated on my leg, and I was completely healed. I thank the almighty God that at the time of my despair and hopelessness, He stretched out His hand to me and saved me. Not only so, God manifested His power in me so that my family got to know Him through my broken leg. Not only did He give me peace, He gave my family faith. Knowing God is my greatest joy, and I truly thank Him for allowing me to experience His amazing love and grace. May all the glory be unto the true God in heaven. Amen.

*Abridged testimony
Maggie Tsou—Garden Grove, California, USA*

Students, the great commission that Jesus gave to His disciples has been entrusted to us also. It is important for us to keep in mind that we must always stay in the truth and preach only according to the Bible. Even though Jesus' disciples encountered many difficulties during their ministries, they always spoke the truth boldly, proclaiming Jesus as their Savior. Are you ready to work for the Lord?

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. To preach the good news about Jesus and to look after His sheep.
2. He teaches us and helps us do what Jesus wants us to do. The Holy Spirit is also the guarantee for us to go to heaven.
3. Yes, Jesus will definitely come back one day. This is what He had promised, and He would never break His promises. He is not here yet because many of us are not ready yet. Also, He wants to give us more time so that more people can come to know Him and get ready for His return.
4. False; He appeared when they were fishing in the Sea of Tiberias.
5. True
6. True
7. False, Jesus told Peter to take care of all the sheep
8. D
9. B
10. A
11. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon on you." (Acts 1:8a)

ACTIVITY

I Can Contribute to the African Ministry!

Objective: To review the lesson and encourage the students to help out.

Today, we're going to play a review activity to see how much you remember. When your team answers a question correctly, you will get points. Each team will use these points to buy things for their missionary. Missionaries need many things to help the church members. They need food and water, housing, training, Bibles, and money to buy plane tickets to get to the faraway countries. It might also be helpful for a missionary to have a bicycle to travel from town to town. It would be wonderful if you had enough points to help the missionaries build a new church.

Bicycle to get from town to town	10 points
Food to eat and water to drink	30 points
Shelter in which to live	50 points
Missionary training	100 points
Bibles to hand out	200 points
Plane ticket	300 points
Money and resources to build a new church	400 points

Instructions

1. Using index cards, make question cards for each question below, using the blank side for the point value and the lined side for the question.
2. Tape all the questions on the white board so that the students can see the point values.
3. Post the list of things the students can do for the missionaries on the board. Make the list large enough for the students to be able to read the list and the point values. Tell them that their goal is to do as many things as possible for the missionaries by earning as many points as they can. If a team earns 400, then everything can be done!
4. Let the two teams play a game of rock-paper-scissors to see which team goes first.
5. Allow the first team to choose a question to answer. Give the students some time to think before they answer. Encourage the teams to work together to come up with the answer.
6. If they answer correctly, they get the number of points shown on the card. If they answer incorrectly, the other team gets a chance to answer the question and steal the points. The teams then take turns to answer the questions, with each team having the opportunity to steal their opponent's question.

7. Put the index card back onto the board, under the team name, to keep track of which team answered what.
8. When all the questions have been answered correctly, tally up the points and see which team has helped the missionaries the most. If there is a tie, the team that correctly answered the most difficult question wins.

10 pts **On which day did Jesus rise from the dead?** *He rose from the dead on the 3rd day.*

15 pts **Where was Jesus buried after His death?** *In a nearby tomb that had been carved out of a rock.*

20 pts **Where were Jesus' two followers going when Jesus appeared to them?** *The town of Emmaus.*

30 pts **What question did Jesus ask Peter three times?** *"Do you love Me?"*

What were Jesus' instructions to Peter?

- 40 pts
- a. Tend My sheep
 - b. Feed My sheep
 - c. Feed My lambs
 - d. All of the above

60 pts **What did Mary and her friends discover when they went to the tomb?**
They discovered that Jesus was missing.

80 pts **Jesus went back to heaven _____ days after He resurrected.**

- a. 40
- b. 30
- c. 20
- d. 10

100 pts **What does "resurrect" mean?** *It means to come back to life after dying.*

150 pts **Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have _____ (believed).**

250 pts **What did Jesus tell the disciples before He went back to heaven?** *Jesus told His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to come so that He could help give them the strength to preach.*

E1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 12—The Great Commission

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus ascended to heaven but will return one day to reward those who have fulfilled His commission.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To remember our commission to share the good news of Jesus with others and to be concerned over our brethren.
 2. To achieve our commission through the power and the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Acts 1:8a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Short Answer

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples before He went back to heaven?

2. Why is the Holy Spirit important?

3. Will Jesus definitely come back one day?

True or False

4. Jesus appeared to His disciples when they were fishing in the Dead Sea. _____

5. Peter felt very bad when Jesus asked him if he loved Jesus. _____

6. Peter really loved Jesus even though he denied him three times. _____

7. Jesus told Peter to take care of only some of His Sheep. _____

Multiple Choice

8. _____ : After Jesus told the disciples where to throw their net, they caught _____ large fish!

- a. 42
- b. 67
- c. 138
- d. 153

9. _____ : Jesus prepared a breakfast of _____ for the disciples to eat.

- a. Raw fish and fried vegetables
- b. Fish and bread cooked on burning coals
- c. Only fish
- d. Only bread

10. _____ : Jesus went back to heaven _____ days after He resurrected.

- a. 40
- b. 30
- c. 20
- d. 10

11. **Unscramble the following words to form this week's memory verse.**

you shall receive when the "But power Holy Spirit on you." has come upon (Acts 1:8a)
