

Jam Club Programme 17th May 2020: The Great Commission - Mission Abroad

Parents notes

The aim of this session is to show that the Great Commission is a job that Jesus gave to you and me, not just the first disciples.

Bible References: Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15-18, Luke 24:50-53

The ascension of Jesus is a hiatus – the end of his earthly ministry, the beginning of the spread of the Kingdom of God. With the ascension, the direct ministry of Jesus comes to a close. In Mark 16, Mark says that Jesus “sat down at the right hand of God” – sitting down implies completion -the end of the task. In Acts 2 the Holy Spirit arrives and takes centre-stage as the spotlight moves onto first the twelve, then the disciples/followers, and finally the Church as a whole.

I think that ‘The Great Commission’ makes a lot of people scared. It seems so big! How can we go to all nations, how can we teach people about Jesus? It seems daunting and nigh on impossible. But I don’t think Jesus intended us to be frightened by it, rather exhilarated and excited at the prospect...

Imagine if every Christian in the world brought one other person to faith each year and that then those new Christians did the same... The planet would explode exponentially with new believers! It doesn’t take so many years before practically everyone is saved!

I trained as a musician and whenever I teach, I find myself asking my students how they would eat an elephant. The answer is to cut it up first! The Great Commission is meant to be broken up into manageable chunks. We can’t hope to change the world, but we might just have a chance at changing the place where we work, the street that we live on.

Still daunting? Well yes, because surely only the Holy Spirit convicts us of the need for salvation... And so He does, but thankfully, as believers, the Holy Spirit has made His dwelling inside of each of us and works through us to change the world. All we have to be is obedient.

Jesus promised to be with us until the end of the age and He does this through His Holy Spirit – the same power that conquered the grave really does live in me. I get to partner with Jesus – now that’s exciting!

The fact is the Great Commission has not yet been fulfilled, so it passes on to us. It is to us, today, that Jesus says “preach the Gospel to the whole world...” The task is not complete – Wycliffe Bible translators want to have reached every people group by 2025, but there is a lot of work needed right now: and we are all in contact with people who have never heard the Gospel. So during the last part of the session the real job is to fire the children up and help them to think about how they can be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission today!

Choose the appropriate Bible story to re-tell and discuss for your child’s age. If you have children of mixed ages the older ones can always help the younger ones explore the Bible story – they will still learn a lot from this (I do every week!!)

If you have any suggestions that would help make these notes better please do contact us – email jamclub@wrbcchitchin.org.uk Instagram *WRBC Kids*/ Facebook *WRBCKids* / Twitter *@WrbcK*

Also let us know if you want a Jam Club WhatsApp group set up for sharing your experiences.

Amanda & the Jam Club leaders

KS 1/2 Bible Story (LJ24: 7-10): Just the Beginning!

Resources needed: Notes below

Ask the children to find a space on the floor and to make themselves comfortable as you tell again (repeat from last week) the last story of Jesus' time on Earth. As you tell the story, ask the children to keep their eyes closed so that they can imagine that they are one of the disciples actually with Jesus. When you ask questions, the children should think of the answers in their heads. Story (based on Luke 24:36-53, Acts 1: 3-5 and Mark 16:15-20):

"You are in the upper room – the same room where you shared the Passover meal with Jesus six weeks ago. All of you are there, talking quietly. Suddenly, you turn around and Jesus is standing in the middle of the room. How do you feel? Jesus explains that the Old Testament showed that he had to die. You remember seeing Jesus on the cross. Does it still make you feel sad? He reminds you that he died to take the punishment for all the things you have done wrong, so that you can know God. You look at the holes in Jesus' hands where the nails held him to the cross and remember the things you have done wrong. How do you feel about Jesus?"

Jesus gives you a job! He says that all the disciples – and you – must spread the message of Good News to everyone! Starting in Jerusalem, then going into all of Judea – everywhere the Jews live – and *then going to everyone in the whole world!* You must tell everyone the Good News that Jesus died for them so that they can get to know God as well. How do you feel? Where will you start?"

Jesus tells you that he will send the Holy Spirit to help you, and he will give you power to be able to do miracles, to help people believe the message. Are you excited? Are you a bit worried? How do you feel?"

Then Jesus asks you to come with him. All of you stand up and go outside. There are flowers in the grass and the air smells fresh and sweet. The sun is warm, and Jesus leads you up a hill. You are out of breath when you get to the top and Jesus stops. Are you glad to sit down on the soft grass? Jesus stretches out his hands and blesses you. Then suddenly a cloud hides him, and he is taken up to heaven. You realise that you will never see him standing beside you on earth again – this is the end of your time with him. How do you feel?"

After a few seconds silence ask the children to open their eyes again. Ask them:

- What job did Jesus give to the disciples / to us?
- Do they think that the disciples were able to do what Jesus asked them? (ie tell Jesus' message to the whole world...?)
- What do they think it meant when Jesus went up to heaven in the cloud? (Jesus went back to God, his Father)
- How do they think the disciples felt when Jesus went up to heaven for the last time? (they were full of joy & worship, understanding who Jesus was, excited about what to do next)
- Was it the end of the story – or the beginning? (beginning - the Holy Spirit came soon after to be with them and the Holy Spirit is still here with us, helping us to take the gospel message to the whole world!)
- How can we help to send the message to the whole world, even while we are at home? (support missionaries; pray for them, write to them, encourage them)

KS 3/4 Bible Story (LJ24 15+): Our Great Commission

Resources needed: Bible, paper & pens

Read Mark 16:15 to recap from last week, then read Matthew 28:16-20, which covers the same event and ask the following questions:

- Why did some of the disciples still doubt when they saw Jesus before them? ([afraid to believe what they desperately wanted - that they were really seeing Jesus alive again](#))
- What might your reaction have been?
- What was Jesus telling His disciples to do in verses 19-20? ([make disciples of all nations, baptise & teach them](#))
- Do you think that Jesus really was with His disciples and is with us to the very end of time?
- Why/why not? ([Holy spirit came at Pentecost - part of the Trinity](#))

Now read Luke 24:50-53

Remind the young people that after Jesus had given His disciples their mission for their lives, He went back up to Heaven to re-join His Heavenly Father. This was always the plan; He had completed what God had sent Him to earth to do and now He had told His believers what they were to do to continue.

It is so amazing that after He had given His disciples this incredible and yet very difficult challenge that He blessed them before He left. The disciples were not saddened when He left as they had been when He had died; instead they go away from the place worshipping.

After Jesus died, the disciples had lost someone who they cared for and loved very much. They also lost their teacher and the person who gave them hope and a purpose. They lost all this and didn't know what they were meant to do. However, it was very different when Jesus ascended into Heaven because *He left His disciples with a new sense of purpose and mission*. They knew what they had to do and set straight off to do it, praising God as they went.

Remind the young people of the one-minute gospel message that we practiced last week. This is really helpful to spread the gospel to those physically around us and is still really important.

Ask the young people:

- How they can do as Jesus called them to do – 'to make disciples of *all the nations*.' ie overseas ([support those working overseas in Mission](#))
- Can they think of anyone linked to our church who helps to spread the gospel message abroad? ([see below](#))
- What they can practically do to support these people we know? ([pray for them, write to them, encourage them](#))
- Can they think of any other ways to preach the gospel message around the world, showing God's love through actions rather than words? ([sponsor a child, Shoebox project...](#))

Overseas Links

- Pastor Ziad & Randa, Matta (age 12) & Moriah (age 8) - Tur'an Baptist Church, Israel (*twinned with WRBC*)
- Alan & Megan Barker - Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) Missionaries in Nepal (*BMS link for WRBC*)
- Mat & Lydia, Clem (age 13) & Clara (age 8) - in South East Asia (*family of WRBC Members*)
- Pastor Mondri & Nila Palucaj, Joel (age 16) & Aron (age 9) - Lezhe Church, Tirana, Albania (*links through Harold & Barbara Liberty*)

Prayer Activity (All Ages): Helicopter Prayers

Resources needed: paper or thin card, colouring pens, scissors, paper clip

Watch the video of how to make a paper helicopter! Either draw the template yourself or use the downloadable pdf to print it out.

Using the template, cut along all the solid black lines and then fold along all the dotted lines. Fold A & B at 90 degrees to each other. Fold C & D over each other and behind the central strip. Finally fold over the bottom of the central strip and secure with the paperclip.

Finish by colouring the tops of the helicopter blades (A & B) with pens and write one of the memory verses below down the central strip.

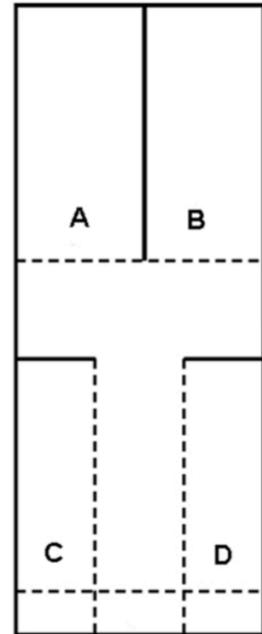
"Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come."

Jeremiah 33:3

"Again, Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father sent me, so I am sending you."

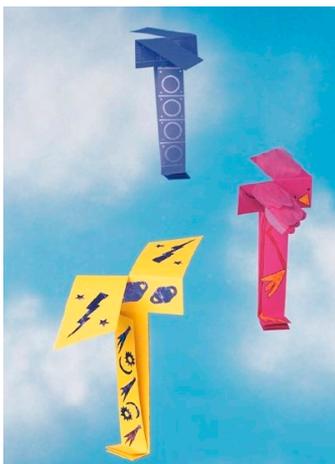
John 20:21

Remind the children that like the wind takes a sycamore seed and it travels around so that the tree's seeds are spread ready to grow all over the place, we are told by Jesus to spread the good news. We do what we can and then we trust the Holy Spirit to nurture those we have been in contact with.



Have fun with the helicopters by throwing them upwards or dropping them (with supervision) over a banister / out of a window.

***Take Care that children keep their feet on the floor
and so, don't fall in either of these places! ***



*Show us your prayer activity at the Sunday morning eChurch service
or send us a picture to get your weekly Splat!!*

Craft (All ages): Mission Encouragers

Resources needed: blank paper, colouring pencils or pens, writing paper (optional)

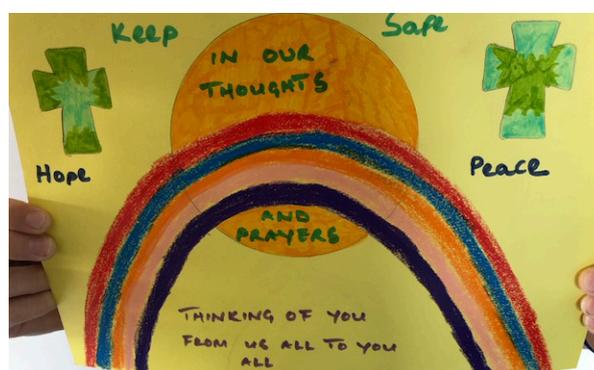
Think about the people we know, linked to WRBC, who are currently working overseas - look at the list below.

Use the paper to draw a picture to send to one of the people overseas to be an encouragement for them, particularly for any children in the families. Add a memory verse if you have a favourite and then write your name, age & a short message of encouragement or blessings (if you wish) on the back.

- Pastor Ziad & Randa, Matta (age 12) & Moriah (age 8) - Tur'an Baptist Church, Israel (*twinned with WRBC*)
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Older children and young people may also wish to write a letter of encouragement to one of the above which can be sent with their card.

The pictures can be posted to the church premises in an envelope marked Mission Encouragers, or posted to Amanda Maylin, 11 The Ridgeway, Hitchin, SG5 2BT. These will be sent on to the above people / families - if you have a preference for who receives your picture/letter please let me know.



*Show us your craft at the Sunday morning eChurch service
or send us a picture to get your weekly Splat!!*

Game (KS1/2): Where in the World...?

Resources needed: Computer to show the attached pictures, pen and paper

If you want to be a Missionary abroad, you will need to have some knowledge about the world!!
Use the attached pictures of

- flags
- types of food, animal or object
- famous landmarks

For each picture write down the country it is relevant to. Answers available separately on request!!

Send us a picture of you playing this game to get your weekly Splat!!

Game (KS3/4): Sum up the Story!

Resources needed: clues & answers below separately written or printed out in advance, pens and paper

Movies often have a strapline after the title (see below). Hide the strap lines and the movie titles around the house, for the young people to find. Use the films that you think they will know - use others if needed; they are usually found on the cover of DVD cases. Give each young person a pen and some paper, and get them to write down the matched pair answers:

An unforgettable journey she probably won't remember (Finding Dory)
United we stand, divided we fall (Captain America: Civil War)
The park is open (Jurassic World)
Meet the little voices inside your head (Inside Out)
A rebellion built on hope (Rogue One: A Star Wars story)
The ocean is calling (Moana)
Welcome to the urban jungle (Zootropolis)
From this moment everything will change (Cars 3)
It takes a bear to catch a thief (Paddington 2)
Why are they here? (Arrival)
1,700 years to build. 5,500 miles long. What were they trying to keep out? (The Great Wall)
We had twenty years to prepare. So, did they. (Independence Day: Resurgence)
When the order came to retreat, one man stayed. (Hacksaw Ridge)
Wonder what they do all day? (The Secret Life of Pets)
The world is more giant than you can imagine (The BFG)
Witness the man hunt that changed the course of human history (Risen)
Help is only 140 million miles away (The Martian)
Rethink your heroes (Transformers: The Last Knight)
War had already begun (War of the Planet of the Apes)
All hail the king (Kong: Skull Island)

After 5 minutes read out the correct answers and see who correctly identified the most. Then ask the young people to write a strap line for the story of Jesus.

Send us a picture of you playing this game to get your weekly Splat!!