***Sunday School materials 17/05/2020***

***THE GREAT COMMISSION!***

***Foot Steps.***

The aim of this session is to explore Jesus' plan for the whole world.

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

This week we are exploring Jesus' ascension into heaven and the job he left for us to do. Last words are really important and Jesus could have said anything at that point. He chose a simple instruction. Go into all the world and tell people about me. This is something followers of Jesus have been doing ever since.

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…” We are all in contact with people who have never heard the Gospel. So, in this session the real job is to help them to think about how they can be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission today!

***BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 28:16-20***

***AROUND THE WORLD***

Feel free to leave out activities that might not work for your family.

1. Set up a computer with the following quiz on it [www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/worldquiz.html](http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/worldquiz.html)

2. Different breads from around the world picture quiz.

3. PowerPoint quiz on famous world landmarks.

4. Jigsaw puzzle of the world if you have one..

Explain that Jesus told His disciples to go to all peoples throughout the world and help them to become His followers and disciples as well.

***DANCING AROUND THE WORLD.***

Matt is an American who has become famous on the internet for doing his ‘dance' all over the world. He has made 3 videos and in the 2008 video lots of people worldwide got involved in dancing with him.

The video can be downloaded and other information found out from <http://www.wheretheheckismatt.com/>. The videos are from different years and I think the 2012 is particularly good!

When you've watched it say that for Matt, the idea of making a video of himself, - doing a dance all over the world, was rather a good one. He has been able to give up his job designing video games and has been sponsored to make two more videos of him dancing all around the world.

During His last few moments on earth, Jesus challenged His disciples to travel the world too, not to dance, but to let everyone know about Him and how His love and forgiveness can change their lives. He promises not to leave them, and tells them that He will always be with them – not in a physical presence but in a spiritual sense.

In Matthew 10, Jesus sent the disciples out on a local missionary journey and encouraged them by saying – read Matthew 10:27–28a. Now at the end of his earthly life Jesus is encouraging a local mission and a worldwide mission, not just for a few days, but for the rest of their lives.

***DIGGING IN***

Read Luke 24:36–49 from ‘The Message'. Print out a copy of the verses from [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com/) or look online..

Ask them to read through the story again. As they do get them to underline sections (if you printed it out) of the passage in the following way:

* Anything that makes them, stop and think they should underline it in red.
* Anything that they don't understand or need to ask a question about, they should underline in blue.
* Anything that they feel is really challenging them, they should underline in green.

Say that Jesus really challenged those first disciples by saying that they were witnesses. They had had the privilege of knowing him first hand and now it was their responsibility to tell others starting right where they are in Jerusalem and then moving outwards to the ends of the earth.

This point may well have come up already as something underlined in green, so be aware of what's already been said, but ask the question whether this challenge is still relevant to Christians today and if so why.

Finish by saying that Jesus – His life, death and resurrection is good news. Only through Jesus can we have a relationship with God. This news is way too important to keep to ourselves.

The Point: The good news is too good to keep to ourselves so we should take notice of Jesus' challenge to be witnesses for Him wherever we are.

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#### ***GLOBAL PRAYING***

#### ***Equipment***

Large map of the world, tea light candles, a large candle, matches and some containers with water. Use battery powered tealights if you prefer.

If you have access to a really large world map use this In the middle of the map place a lit candle (have a container of water nearby just in case anyone burns themselves).

You could adapt this activity by "starting in Jerusalem" and using a map of the local area.

Explain that they are going to pray for the world starting with those places where they have friends or relatives. In turn each person lights a candle and places it on the appropriate area of the map and then says a short prayer for that person and the place where they live.

Once you have run out of friends and family start praying for areas of the world which are in the news and then finally any other areas that people have heard about and would like to pray for.

The Point: To pray for the world, starting with where the young people are.

***WORSHIP:*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3NelRb1LY4&list=PLD290kv35qLeL6IOWRRLO_M540nRCDtFl&index=6>