

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 11: Outreach of the Church

Central Text: Matthew 28:16-20

16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Suggested subjects for teacher to cover:

Five Elements of the Great Commission:

1. The Commander, the LORD Jesus Christ.
2. The messenger (sent by the Commander) - The messenger must share the message of Christ and also reflect His character (Ephesians 5:1)
3. The audience: We need to take the gospel to the lost.
4. The message (We must learn the message and be willing to give it).
5. God's providence (God's care and protection and guidance - Christ is with us always).

The teacher should take careful note of the grammar of Matthew 28:19-20. The main idea is found in the main verb "make disciples"(aorist active imperative of μαθητεω— to make a disciple).

The next two words, "baptizing" and "teaching," are subservient to the action of the main verb (make disciples). These two participles tell us what is involved in making disciples:

1. Baptizing- This is a reference to water baptism, which was a public testimony of a believer's identification in the body of Christ. Evangelization and salvation would be summarized by the phrase "baptizing them" (i.e. a person would hear the gospel message, believe it, and then would be water baptized- Acts 16:31-33).
2. Teaching- This involves teaching the word of God. The pastor does this in the formal sense, but all believers are responsible for teaching the word of God in an informal sense (James 3:1 compared to Heb. 5:12; 1 Pet. 3:15).

Though not specifically stated in the context, preaching the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, is part of this process. One cannot become a disciple of Jesus Christ until he puts his faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

The phrase "teaching them" is followed by the phrase "to observe all that I command you." Notice that it does not simply say to teach them, but to "teach them to OBSERVE or KEEP all that I command you." We are to teach others the word of Christ and also exhort and encourage others to obey the teachings of Christ.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Omnipresence- Jesus claims to be with them after He returns to heaven, even to the end of the age.

Suggested Reading for Children at Home:

Teach your children to be able to articulate the gospel clearly and also teach them the importance of sharing the gospel with others.