



**Group Leader:** Please be certain to have enough of the “FOCUS on Mission” menus for each household in your group. (Additional copies are available for you at the Welcome Desk in MCC’s Foyer.)

**Your objective for this week’s group** is to help everyone understand the Church’s Great Commission better and to discover the part that each of us can play in fulfilling it! Whole families might even consider doing a short-term missions trip together in 2019!

**START CONNECTING** (Choose the best ice breaker / warm-up for your group!)

### **SIMON SAYS**

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED:** Enough space for everyone to play (adults too!); a candy prize for the winner(s)

**WHAT TO DO:** That’s right – an old fashioned game of Simon Says is great for adults and children alike! Start with one person as Simon, giving active and creative movements. As people drop out for moving when Simon DIDN’T SAY, you can have them take turns being the leader. Have a candy prize for whomever wins. Repeat rounds as desired and as time allows.

**WHAT TO SAY:** Tonight we are going to learn about a command that Jesus gave us called the Great Commission. This is important because whatever “Jesus says”, all of us are to be doing. He wants us to make disciples!

### **GREAT COMMISSION MAZE**

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED:** Copies of the Great Commission Maze (last page); pencils/pens for each child

**WHAT TO DO:** Encourage the children to complete the Great Commission maze.

**WHAT TO SAY:** Follow-up the activity with the following questions to get things started:

**Does anyone know who said these words? (Jesus) We call this command from Jesus “The Great Commission.” That’s what we’re talking about today.**

**READ ALOUD:** Matthew 28:18-20 (at right and on the maze page)

### **KEY SCRIPTURES**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)**

*Scripture says, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How can they call on him unless they believe in him? How can they believe in him unless they hear about him? How can they hear about him unless someone preaches to them? 15 And how can anyone preach without being sent? It is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”*

**Romans 10:13-15 (NIRV)**

## START THINKING

### DOMINO CHALLENGE

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: Dominoes (or Rummikube game pieces); flat and stable tabletop, hardwood floor, or other surface)



WHAT TO DO: Challenge the kids to stand dominoes on end in a line, leaving only about an inch between the dominoes. Allow kids to work for several minutes together. Then call for kids to finish. Choose a volunteer to push over the domino at the end of the line so that a chain reaction occurs—one domino knocks over the next, which knocks over the next, and so forth. (Repeat this as desired.)

**WHAT TO SAY (THE POINT):** That’s what we call a *chain reaction*: when one event causes a bunch of other things to happen. In today’s Bible verse, Jesus gave His disciples an important command. When His disciples obeyed, it caused a chain reaction that affects people even today! We know about Jesus today because of those early followers obeyed Jesus’ commandment.

### CANDY MISSIONARIES

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: Enough small pieces of candy for everyone in the group to have several (Example: small Halloween individual candies),

WHAT TO DO: Separate the group into two (2) groups of people; allow for space between them – even putting them in separate, adjoining rooms if possible, so that everyone can still see & hear what’s going on. As you narrate this story, have the groups act it out!

WHAT TO SAY: Once upon a time there were two groups of people: One group was especially happy because they had something awesome – CANDY! *(Give everyone in that group three pieces of candy. Invite them to eat ONE (1) piece of it. Encourage those with candy: enjoy it, love it, loudly!)*

At the same time, there was another group of people who were without candy. They didn’t even know the candy exists, but they always felt like something was missing from their lives. *(Invite that group to act sad, etc.)* Some people in the group without candy had heard something about it and wondered if candy was real – it sounded so wonderful! They said things like: “We sure wish we had some candy, if only someone would bring us candy, our lives would be better!”

One day, someone in the CANDY group realized that the other group didn’t have candy. They were very sad and told others in their group about it. The CANDY group chose someone from their group to send over with some of their own candy. (Everyone in the CANDY group gives their remaining two (2) pieces of candy to the CANDY MISSIONARY whom they will send to the other group. And then they send him/her away to the other group. *(Ask the person being sent with all the candy to walk over to the other group.)*

The CANDY MISSIONARY arrives and gives two pieces of candy to the other group members. They were thrilled to receive candy and so thankful! *(Instruct them all to eat one (1) piece of candy and to enjoy it loudly.)* Then the CANDY MISSIONARY returned home.

Finally, the group of people who used to be without candy but now have it, realize there's another group without candy (the adults), so they freely give candy to them. *(Instruct each member of that group to give away his/her remaining piece of candy to an adult. Encourage adults to enjoy it loudly!)*

WHAT’S THE POINT: Lead the following discussion questions.

1. In our little drama, how is the first group that had candy like people who know about Jesus? *(We have something very special and it would be unfair and disobedient not to share it with others.)*

2. Who is the second group (those without candy) like? (*People who don't know about Jesus, or who are far away from Him*).
3. How was the person who took candy to the group like a missionary? (*Everybody gave some of his candy to the missionary to support him on his journey to share Jesus with others.*)
4. Who was most important part of getting the message to the group that didn't have candy, the one who actually went or the people who gave so that he/she could go? (*All were important, it wouldn't have happened without people going AND sending*)
5. Where does the extra Jesus (candy) come from so that everyone can share Jesus multiple times over? (*Jesus is better than candy, He lives freely in our hearts and the more we tell others about Him, the more there is of Him inside of us. Jesus never runs out!*)

### Here's what the Bible says about this process:

*Scripture says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How can they call on him unless they believe in him? How can they believe in him unless they hear about him? How can they hear about him unless someone preaches to them? 15 And how can anyone preach without being sent? It is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

**Romans 10:13-15 (NIRV)**

Let's pray right now and ask the Lord to send just the right people to tell others about Jesus. Let's also pray that God will use people just like us to go and do that, or to help send others who go. (*Lead a simple prayer for the children in this manner.*)

### START RESPONDING

**Leader Tip:** Make certain that each household (or adult) has a "FOCUS on Mission" menu in hand. **This would be a great time for the children to play quietly on their own or to do the Great Commission Word Search Puzzle or Crossword Puzzle or Coloring Page (included).** Turn on some music and then invite the adults in the group to examine MCC's menu of domestic and international trips for 2019.

1. What trip(s) has caught someone's eye tonight? (Invite discussion)
2. MCC views short-term mission trips as powerful discipleship opportunities. Can you imagine some ways that doing an MCC trip might grow or mature a person spiritually? (Invite discussion)  
*(Examples: **Builds faith** as one sees God provide finances or gives strength, motivation, and creative ideas to be able to go; **builds character** by being part of a team and preferring/serving others; **provides faith-building experiences** of "only-God" moments while on the trip such as seeing lives changed or goals accomplished; going **builds relationships** with other team members that continue well after the trip itself; participants return with a **fresh perspective** of how God works, loves people, and of what he's doing in other places; participants return with **fresh faith and zeal** for how God might work through them here in our own community.)*
3. What might it be like if our group decided to help (not fully fund, probably) one of our members do a trip in 2019? (Example: Yard sales, spare change, donate unexpected gifts we've received, etc.)
4. Lead the group to pray about any trips that are of interest and the idea of helping someone else do a trip. Also pray that the Lord will call the right people needed for each trip and team.

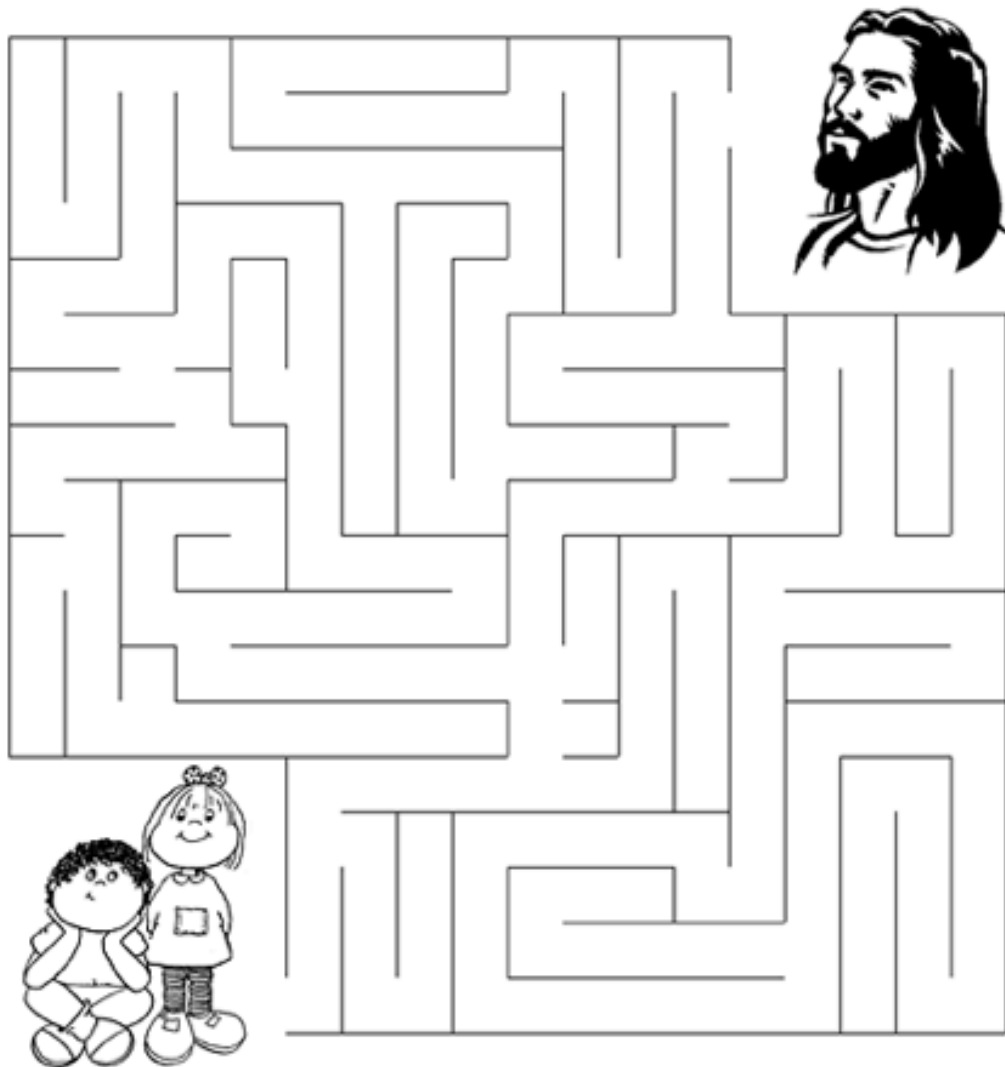
### START DOING

- Ask the group to use the online missions portal at MCC's website to check out trips this week.

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## The Great Commission

I can help my friends find the way to Jesus!



"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

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# The Great Commission

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 28:16-20



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O D E L Y O B E Y L L O U O J  
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N I V T G A I T H V F R H M E  
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I B C H A W B N R J X K L S V  
N V T O I L O B V S T L E K E  
D U Y Z M I W X Q E H L R H N  
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O E O A Z C A A Y I C R P Y F  
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G I V E N D K B T H D I B R S

OBEY  
JESUS  
BAPTIZING  
NATIONS

DISCIPLES  
MOUNTAIN  
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MAKE

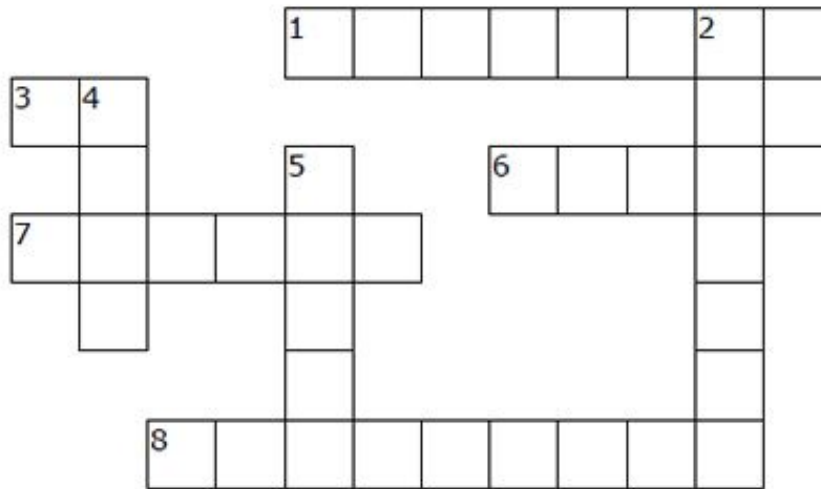
EARTH  
ALWAYS  
COMMANDED  
WORSHIPED

AUTHORITY  
TEACHING  
ELEVEN  
GIVEN

# The Great Commission

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 28:18-20



## ACROSS

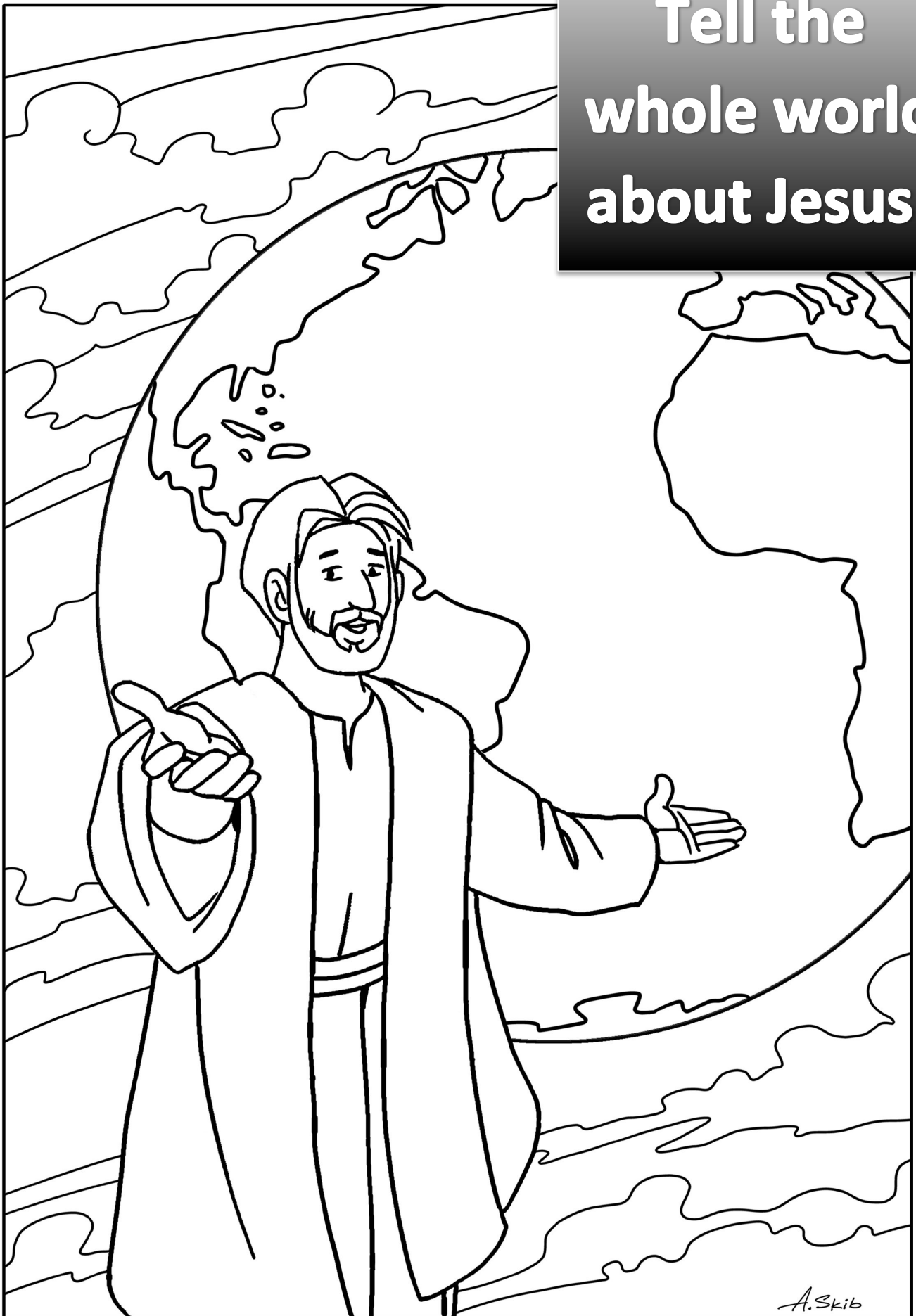
1. Giving instructions to a group of students
3. The opposite of stop
6. The planet on which we live
7. The place where God lives
8. Followers of Jesus

## DOWN

2. Groups of people living in a certain area; countries
4. To follow the commands, rules, or guidance
5. The Son of God

EARTH	TEACHING	GO	HEAVEN
JESUS	DISCIPLES	OBEY	NATIONS

**Tell the  
whole world  
about Jesus!**



*A. Skib*