

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32a)

## **The Great Commission – Matthew 28:16-20**

### **Prepare to Wonder**

This week we're learning about the Great Commission or Jesus' ongoing ministry through his followers. A *commission* is a call to something God wants you to do. God commissions all of us to share Jesus with the whole world. We do this in many ways, such as ministry and showing kindness, love, and respect. We are called to go and baptize, teach, and serve others. These were central actions in Jesus' ministry.

In the story, Jesus commissions his disciples with the task of forming a community of believers. This community is to embody Jesus' presence in the world to strengthen and guide God's children. However, some of the disciples express doubt. They are still having trouble grasping the mystery of the Resurrection. While some worship Jesus immediately, others have questions. There are many times in the Gospels when the disciples express doubt or disbelief, even though they are devoted to Jesus. So, it is natural that we, Jesus' modern disciples, also experience some doubt. Just like the disciples before us, we have to accept a little mystery with our faith. Like them, we must accept that there are some answers we don't have and some things that can't be explained. Jesus knows this is a lot for the disciples to take in, and he promises to be with them always as they spread the gospel.

Just as Jesus was with the disciples in their ministry then, Jesus continues to be with all of us as we seek to build the community of believers today. You'll want your children to know that they are commissioned too. Most of all, you'll want them to know that, like the disciples in the Bible, Jesus is with them.

### **Spiritual Practice for Adults**

This week reflect on your commission. Is there something specific that you feel God is calling you to do in ministry? Even if you aren't ready to answer that call yet, take some time to think about it. Then journal about it. If you are ready to move forward, write out a plan for answering your call. Do you need to take a class? talk to someone at your church? What can you begin to do to prepare to answer your call?

## Welcome to Wonder

*Prepare Ahead:* As a family, create a Wonder Table. Find a small table or area in your home. On the table, place a candle, a plant or flower, and any other special items you want to include.

*Tip:* Use this space while engaging in the lesson.

- Gather together near your Wonder Table.

### WONDER together

- How do you share with others?
- If you were going on a journey around the world, what would you take with you?

### CONTINUE to wonder

- If you could go anywhere to share about God, where would you go?
- What might you tell others about God?

### PRAY together

- Dear God, thank you for calling us to share with others. Amen.

### SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or download the song, "Tell Somebody" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play the song, "Tell Somebody."
- Sing and celebrate.

## Wonder with Me

*Supplies:* CEB Bible, Wonder Cube (Digital Class Pack), optional: Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook

### READ the Bible story

- Read the Bible story: Matthew 28:16-20.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answer a few of the questions.

### WATCH the Bible story

- Visit <https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video> to download and watch today's Bible story, or watch on [www.amplifymedia.com](http://www.amplifymedia.com).

### SHARE the Faith Word

- Faith Word: SHARE—To share means to offer God's blessings to others.

- We know that God gives us blessings and love. God wants us to share those blessings and God’s love with others.

**WONDER:** What does Jesus ask us to share in this story?

## All Around the Neighborhood (Craft/Movement)

*Supplies: construction paper, markers or crayons, scissors, optional: magazines or newspapers*

**SAY:** Jesus asks us to spread his love around the world. Let’s start with our neighborhood.

- Create a map of your neighborhood. Think about who your neighbors are and what businesses, schools, and landmarks might be nearby.

**SAY:** You have so much love to offer our neighborhood.

**WONDER:** How can you share God’s love with your neighborhood?

*Tip: If weather and time permit, consider going for a stroll or ride around the neighborhood to get an idea of what to include on your neighborhood map.*

## Spiritual Practice—Sharing the Good News Through Witness

*Supplies: Celebration Chart (Digital Class Pack), optional: Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book*

- Gather near your Wonder Table.

**SAY:** Today we are invited to go and tell. We will go and tell Jesus’ message.

- Shout, “Jesus loves you!”
- Then whisper, “Jesus loves you.”
- Repeat the activity as long as you choose.

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for calling us and trusting us to share your love with others. Amen.

- Find a time to read together the *Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book*.

*Tip: If someone in your group is nonverbal, use American Sign Language (ASL) for the word clapping when others are shouting or whispering. To sign clapping, rapidly rotate your hands at the wrists.*