

This week we are learning about

# The Great Commission!

## The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus is our teacher and we can teach like Jesus.



Jesus Is Our Teacher  
Jesus asks us to be teachers like him.

**SPARK**  
ACTIVATE FAITH

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is  
**The Great Commission**  
from Matthew 28:16-20.

### All disciples can teach like Jesus.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Nations
- Teaching
- Disciples
- Holy Spirit
- Baptizing
- Authority

When Jesus sent His followers out into the world to make disciples, the most common mode of transportation was by donkey or camel. A donkey caravan could travel about 20 miles a day. Camel caravans could cover 18-25 miles per day. Pretend you have to ride a donkey or a camel to the state closest to yours. How long would it take by camel? By donkey?

## Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 496-497

Spark Bible page 1098

## Family Prayer

Jesus, please keep us safe this week as we travel. Give us strength and encouragement as we tell people we meet about you and your love for them. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### Family Conversations

- 1 Who was the very first person who told you about Jesus?
- 2 Is it difficult to talk to new people about Jesus? Why or why not?
- 3 What are a few simple ways to share Jesus with others?
- 4 With your family members, role-play starting a conversation about Jesus with someone you've just met. Was it scary? Why or why not?



### Eye Spark

Look around for maps or globes this week. Each time you see one, say a silent prayer asking for God's help to be a confident, willing witness to the world around you.



### Ear Spark

Listen for the sounds of doors all around you. Whenever you hear the sound of a door opening or shutting, remember Jesus saying, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations....."

## LIVE IT

### For families to do together

Gather blue balloons, string or yarn, and a black permanent marker. Blow up the blue balloons (one per person) and tie off the end. Attach the string or yarn (about 3 feet each). Have an older sibling or adult loosely draw the continents on the balloon. Then attach a tag with the scripture Matthew 28:19 printed on it and remember the Great Commission!

### For younger kids

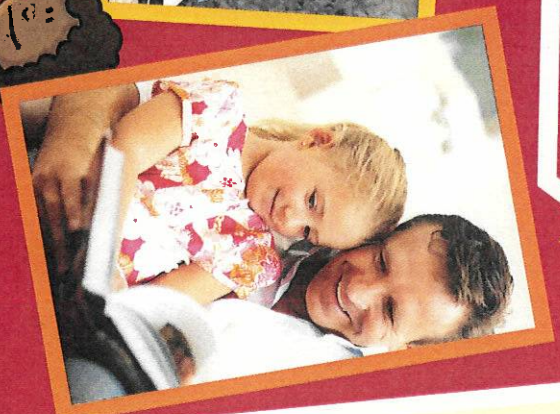
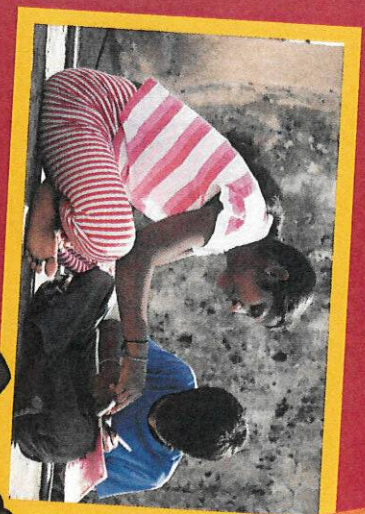
Print the scripture John 3:16 on a small card or paper. Have an adult help you put a few cookies or muffins on a plate or in a basket. Attach the card or paper and deliver to a new neighbor or acquaintance. Now that is sharing God's love!

### For older kids

Use a computer to print off a political world map. Research and locate countries that have a very small Christian population, then pray for one or two of those countries each day this week.

# Find the Teachers

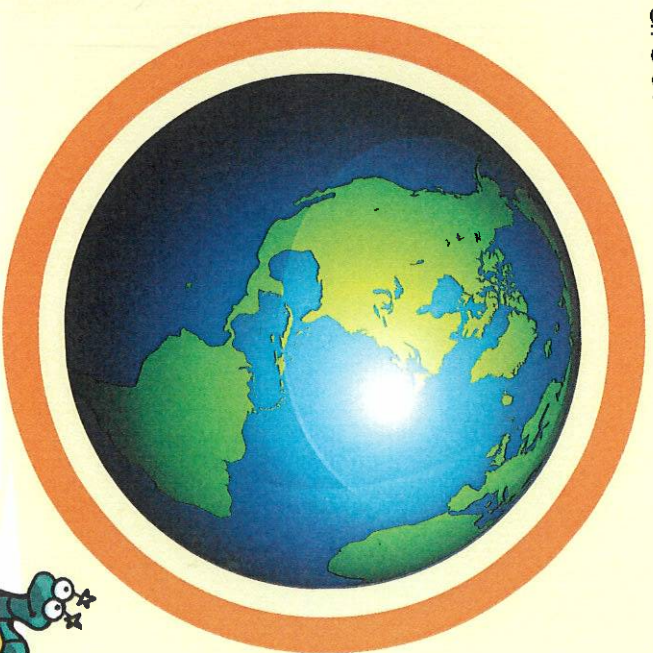
Lots and lots of people are teachers for Jesus.  
You can teach like Jesus too!



Ages 2-3, Classroom, The Great Commission Leaflet, Spark™ Sunday School  
© 2010 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. V8187Z; PRJ014850; DEC2010

## Around the World

Jesus told the disciples to travel  
around the world.



### FAITH on the GO!

Say this simple prayer as a family: Teach me, Jesus,  
to be a teacher. Amen.

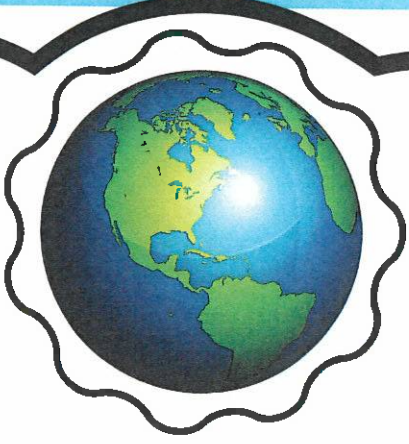
# The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20  
Jesus gives directions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Finish what Jesus said to his disciples—and to YOU!

Go to

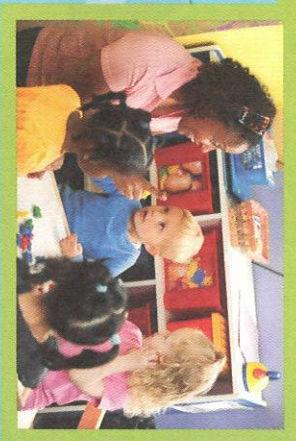
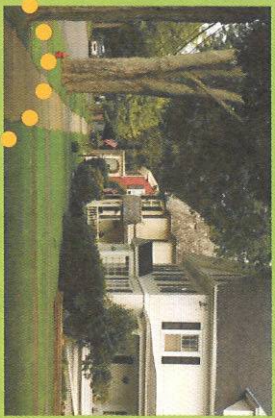


Tell



# Who Can I Tell?

Where can you go? Who can you tell?



mountain fold

mountain fold

mountain fold

mountain fold

valley fold

## FAITH on the GO!

As a family, send a letter, pictures, or e-mail to someone far away. Tell them about Jesus!

# Jesus Plane

Fold on the lines to make an airplane. Where can you and Jesus go?

# Thank You!

Jesus tells us to teach his word, just like your Sunday School teachers and pastors are doing right now! Write them a thank you note for all the great work they do. After you've decorated the page, cut it out and fold it in half twice to make the card!

<p><i>today!</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>and I'm excited to</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>for teaching me. I like it when we</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Thank you</i></p>	
	<h1>Thank You!</h1>

Matthew 28:16-20

Go make **disciples.**

## I wonder...

- Why some disciples doubted it was the resurrected Jesus.
- How soon the disciples went out teaching and baptizing.
- What it means that Jesus is with us to the end of the age.

## Cookies and Juice for All!

Anthony feels a little awkward. He's never been to church before, much less Sunday school. His parents have never taken him to church, though he thinks his mom went as a kid. They work a couple jobs to make ends meet so Anthony has spent a lot of time just hanging out. He's never minded. But he was happy when a kid his age moved to the apartment next door a few months ago. Emmett lives with his mom. Since she works two jobs too, the boys have lots of time to hang together.

Since Anthony and Emmett have become friends, Emmett invited Anthony to come to his church on Sunday morning. Emmett goes to church every Sunday with his mom. When she's working, some lady named Ruth picks him up. Anthony asked him last week why Emmett would go if he didn't have to when his mom was gone. Emmett had to think about it. "I guess I kind of like it. I don't know; it's just what I do on Sundays. Why don't you come along next week and check it out?"

So here he is, sitting in Sunday school with Emmett. The other kids seem to know what's going on, like they've heard the stories before. The songs were kind of weird, but everyone seems like they're glad he's here. So maybe he is too. Plus, they had pretty great snacks.



# To Eternity...and Beyond!

There is a message hidden in the box of numbers below. To find it, draw a circle around any 11 and any group of numbers that add up to 11.

12	8	8	12	8	17	8	4	8	5	8	0	8	12	9
10	5	2	1	2	1	12	9	4	11	1	10	9	2	5
4	6	0	12	4	6	2	13	0	5	13	6	8	4	8
0	5	7	8	10	5	10	2	12	1	8	12	5	3	0
6	2	13	1	10	11	2	7	8	5	9	0	4	4	14
0	9	12	4	0	6	4	0	9	3	14	9	4	5	9
8	11	8	12	7	5	9	8	4	6	10	9	8	4	8
12	6	4	1	7	4	12	2	10	2	3	8	11	2	12



## Look it up!

Jesus never said it would be easy to make disciples. Read **Matthew 10:7-14** to find out what Jesus advised when things didn't work out.



## Memory Verse

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 28:19**



## Fun Facts

About a third of the world is **Christian**—that means about 2.3 billion followers of Christ are alive right now.

The world's **population** increases by approximately 229,000 people per day.

The number of Christians increases by about **85,000 a day**, fastest in Africa.

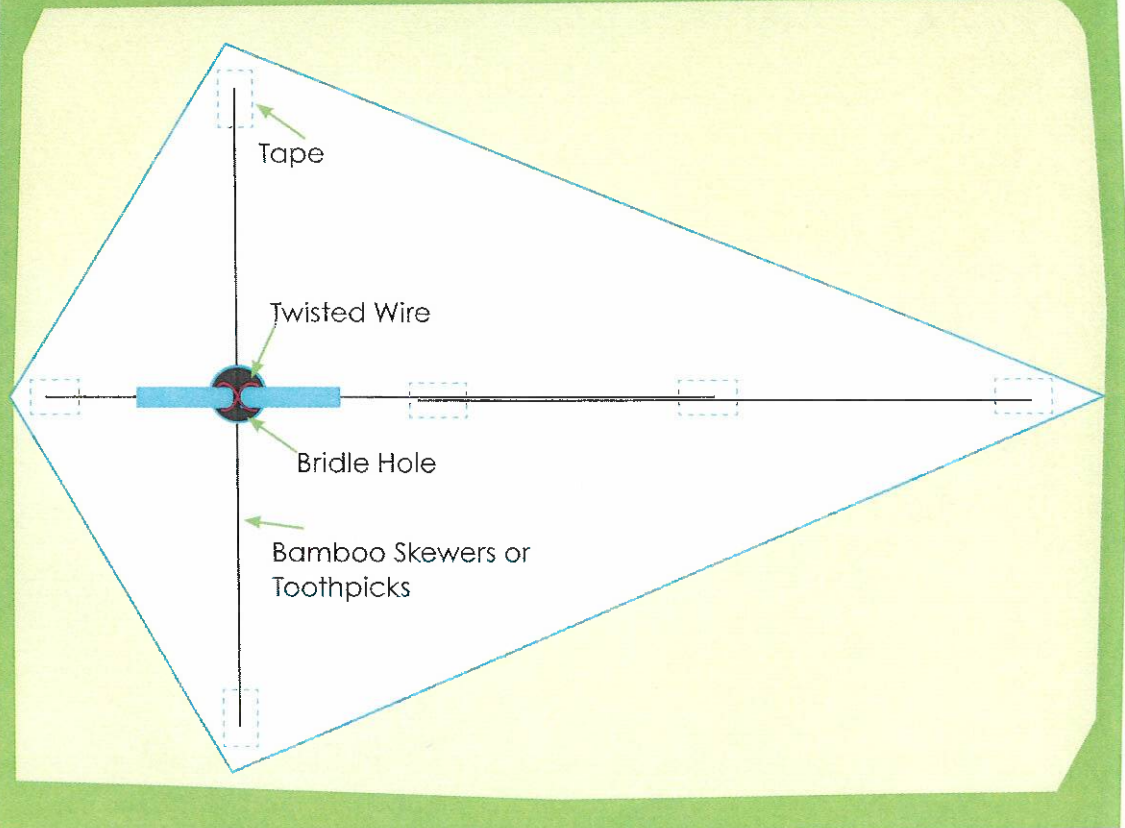
There are approximately **4,850,000 Christian churches** in the world.

Roughly **2,026,696,000 people** in the world today have never heard of Jesus.

Since the Great Commission, there have been around 2,000 strategies to make **disciples** of all nations.

## Air Mail

Jesus didn't say how to "Go," just to get moving!  
So why not try spreading the word through the air?  
Use your leaflet to make a kite and get the message flying.





**Invite** someone without a church to yours.

**Ask** your pastor how she or he makes disciples.

**Talk** about faith at your school lunch table.

**Worship** at another church.

**Look online** for stories about kids making a difference.

## Cookies and Juice for All!

Let's read **Cookies and Juice for All!** on the front of the leaflet. Invite volunteers to take turns reading. When finished, discuss the story and these questions: **Do you know many kids who have never been to church or Sunday school? What do you think they are missing? Why do you think Emmett would go to church on his own? Would you come to church alone? How could we make someone new to church like Anthony feel welcome here?**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
None

## To Eternity . . . And Beyond!

Do you have your inner calculators working? Check out the numbers in the box on the second page. There's a message hidden in there. You have to circle any group of numbers in a row that add up to eleven to find out what it is! Color in those boxes with the circles and the message will suddenly appear! There are no overlaps or diagonals.

Spark Resources  
Spark Bibles  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils

12	8	10	12	8	17	8	4	8	5	8	0	8	12	9
10	5	2	1	2	1	12	9	4	11	1	10	9	2	5
4	6	0	12	4	6	2	13	0	5	13	6	8	4	8
0	5	7	8	10	5	10	2	12	1	8	12	5	3	0
6	2	13	1	10	11	2	7	8	5	9	0	4	4	14
0	9	12	4	0	6	4	0	9	3	14	9	4	5	9
8	11	8	12	7	5	9	8	4	6	10	9	8	4	8
12	6	4	1	7	4	12	2	10	2	3	8	11	2	12

Read the **Look It Up!** challenge in the leaflet and see what Jesus had in mind for a **plan B!** Matthew 10:7-14 is on page 1069 of the Spark Bible.

# Go and Do

Jesus wants us to spread his good news. How can we do that? Brainstorm ideas in the categories below.



**AT HOME**



**AT SCHOOL**



**AT CHURCH**



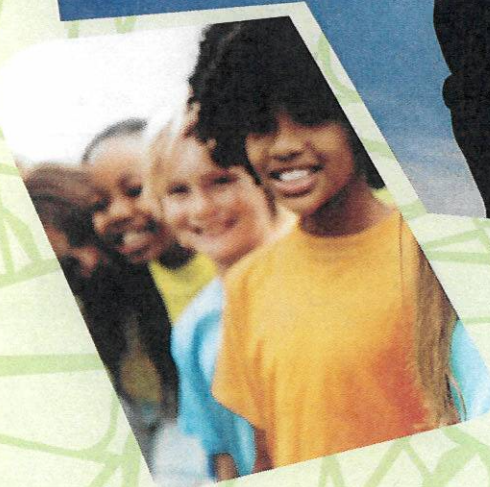
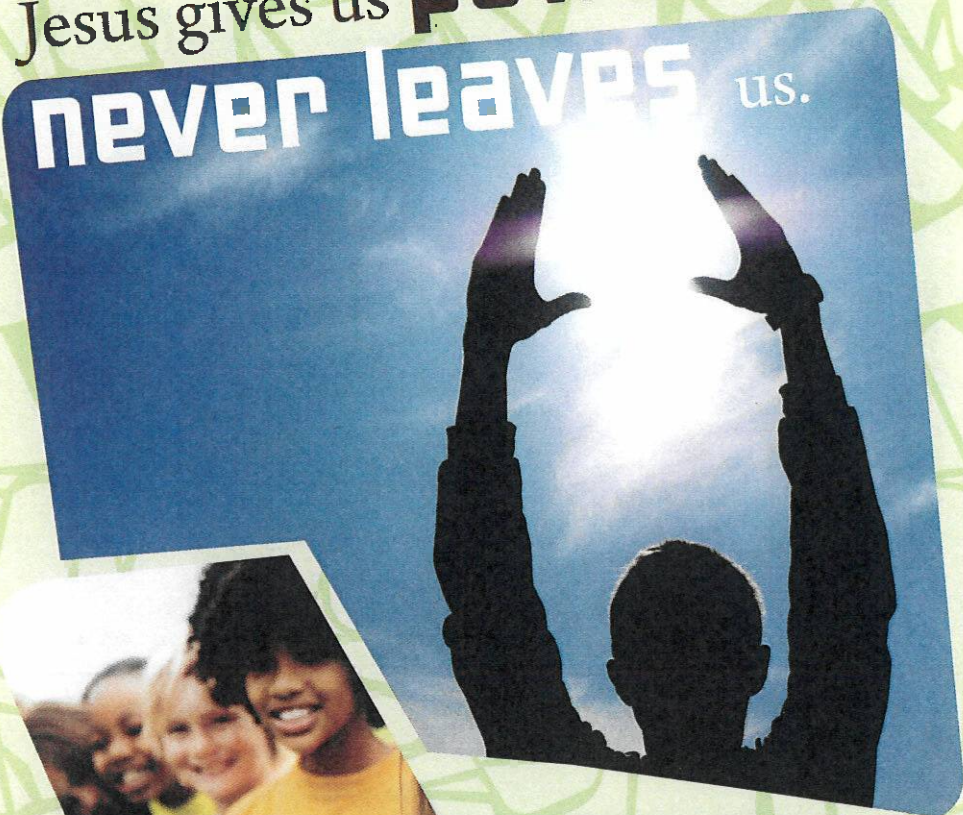
**OTHER**

# The Great Commission

**SPARK**  
ACTIVATE FAITH

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus gives us **power** and  
**never leaves** us.



What makes  
**friendships** last?

# Your Lasting Friendships

How do you make friendships last? Write about it in the space below, and feel free to share specific examples from your life.

---

---

---

---

---



## A Commissioned Kid's Story



As you may have noticed, the words "commission" and "missionary" sounds very similar. But in case you think it's a job for adults only, consider Daniel King. The son of missionaries himself, Daniel says he was called into the ministry when he was 5 years old and began to preach when he was 6.

When Daniel's parents became missionaries to Mexico, he was 10 years old. Daniel then spent the next 13 years ministering in Mexico alongside his parents. When he was

14 he started his own children's ministry. Now as a young adult, King now routinely preaches to crowds of 50,000 people.

## Did You Know?

Some version of the Great Commission appears in all four gospels and in Acts. In Luke, Jesus tells the disciples to preach repentance and forgiveness, and promises that they will have divine power. In John, Jesus says the disciples will have the Holy Spirit and the authority to forgive sins and to withhold forgiveness. In Acts, Jesus promises the disciples that the Holy Spirit will inspire them.



## Look It Up!

How does the Great Commission play out in other parts of the New Testament? To explore two other versions of the events—for both the similarities and differences to Matthew 28—turn to Luke 24 on **page 1169** and Acts 1 on **page 1203**.

## What's the End of the Age, Anyway?

When Jesus says, "I am with you always, until the end of the age," many theologians think Jesus is referring to the end of time—when he will return again. When the disciples ask Jesus about this in Matthew 24, Jesus doesn't give an exact date, though he does talk about earthquakes, famines, wars and persecution. C.S. Lewis, the British author and Christian scholar, describes the end of the age this way: "God will invade. ... When that happens, it is the end of the world. When the author walks on to the stage the play is over."



## OK, Disciples—Any Questions?

Imagine that you are one of the disciples who's just received the Great Commission. Questions? Oh, yeah. Lots of them. Perhaps. Write down the questions you'd ask Jesus here. But be quick: He's about to ascend into heaven.

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Famous Last Words of Faith

**Christ** leaves us with some powerful words in the Great Commission. Some remarkable Christians had remarkable things to say before they died:

**"Into thy hands I commend my spirit: Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth."**

*Martin Luther, founder of the Lutheran church*

**"Ben, make sure you play 'Take My Hand, Precious Lord' in the meeting tonight. Play it real pretty."**

*Martin Luther King Jr. before he was assassinated, spoken to his musician Ben Branch*

**"The best of all is, God is with us."**

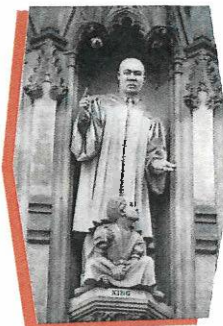
*John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church*

**"Hold the crucifix up before my eyes so I may see it until I die."**

*Joan of Arc, French heroine and military leader, before she was burned at the stake at age 19*

**"This is the end. For me, the beginning of life."**

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and theologian, before the Nazis executed him in 1945*



**Faith  
on the Go!**

The Great Commission sounds like quite a challenge, doesn't it? Keep your eyes open in the days ahead for opportunities to make God's love visible to others. How will you tell people about God's greatness and love? Remember, you don't do it alone. Jesus is with you, always!

**Memory Verse**

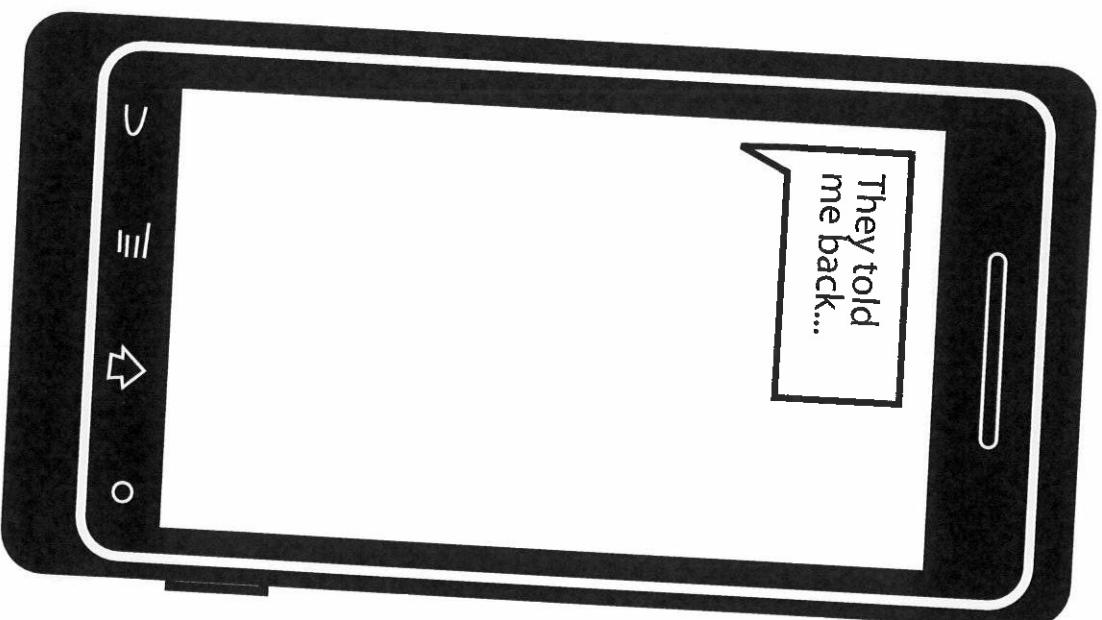
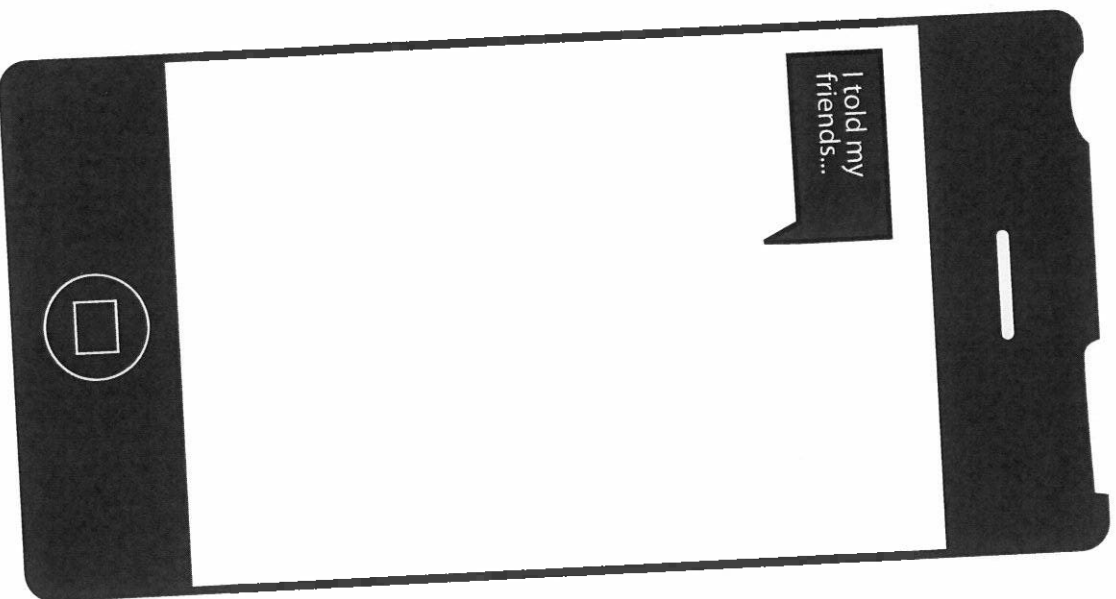


[Teach] them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20



# Spread the Word

Jesus told his disciples to share the good news of his teachings. You can share the good news too! Play a game of Telephone before class. On one of these cell phones, write your original message. When the message comes back to you, write it on the other phone. How close did your class get? Isn't it hard to keep the message straight?

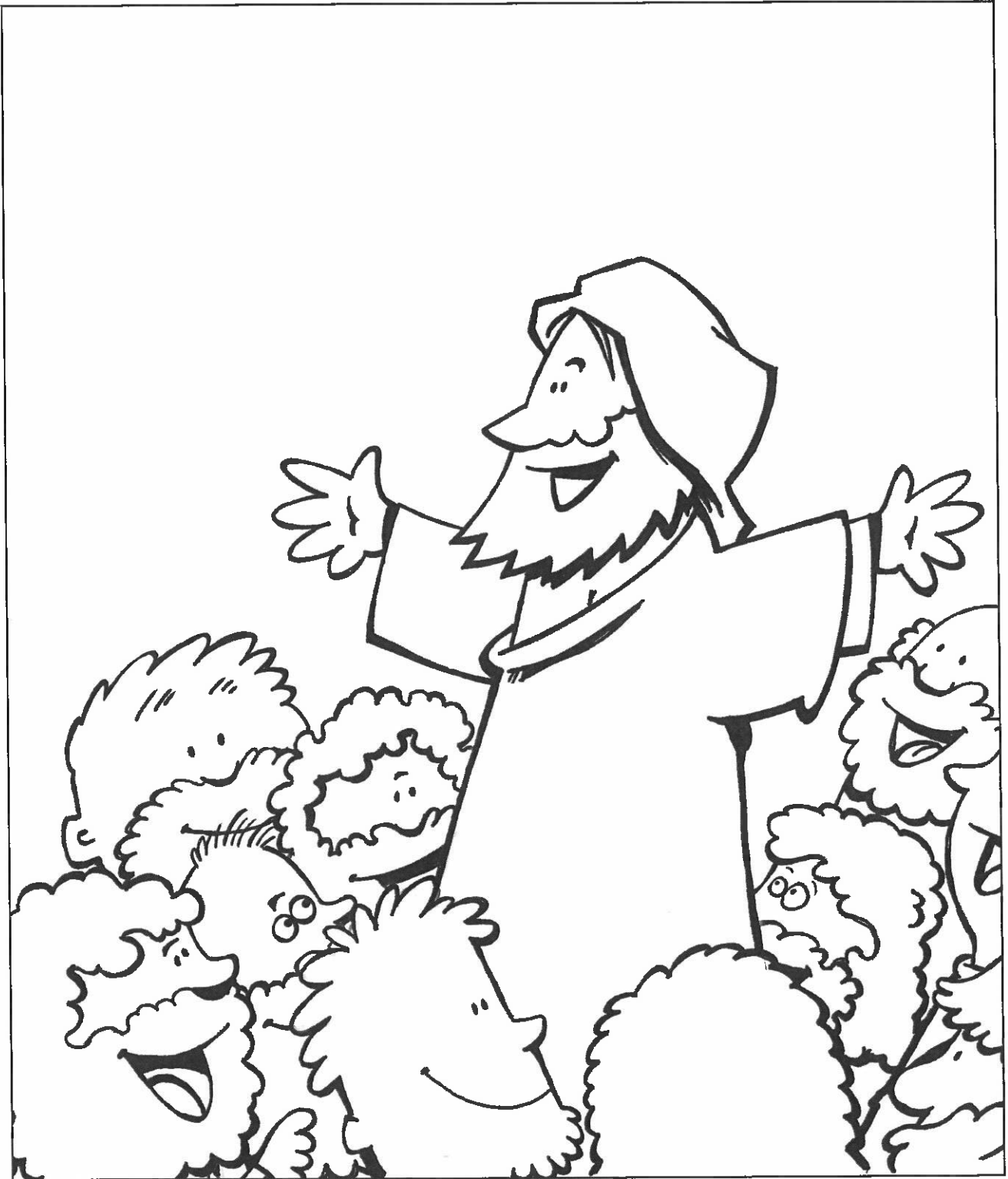


# The Great Commission



Jesus smiled. "Peace be with you!"

# The Great Commission



Jesus told the disciples, "Go everywhere in the world and teach people about me. And remember, I will always be with you!"