



Reach Texas OFFERING



SBTC Reach Texas Children's Lesson

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Overview

As you prepare to teach, read through the entire chapter of Matthew 28. Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples. They had just seen Jesus die on the cross, grieved his life for three days and then met with him in Galilee. They had to be pretty excited to see what his next command was going to be.

Throughout this story, students are going to learn about Jesus' last lesson while on earth. Jesus wants all of us to go and make disciples of all nations. It doesn't just say a pastor or anyone over the age of 18, but everyone must go and make disciples. This includes the students in your classroom. God commands them to go and tell others about all he has done for them. We know this might look different for a 2nd grader versus a church planter, but the command is not negotiable.

As you lead the lesson and activities, help the students think of ways that they can help tell others about Jesus. Make sure to mention the Reach Texas Missions Offering and encourage them to participate. This missions offering helps revitalize churches, plant new churches, do collegiate and student ministry, train churches to minister to Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims, help churches learn to do missions around the world, and respond to disaster relief needs in our state and beyond.

If your students did not bring money to give today, help them make a plan to do so later on. Help them with some ideas on how to raise some money to be able to give. Maybe they can do extra chores around the house, donate some of their allowance, have a lemonade stand, etc.

Finally, make sure every student walks away from your lesson with the knowledge that Jesus is commanding them to go into all the world and make disciples. This includes making disciples in their own neighborhood and school.

Make sure to look through this entire guide and pick a few of the application activities to complete in your class. You can edit the order and flow of the lesson to fit what your classroom is normally used to. We can't wait to hear all about how your children are reaching their friends and neighbors for Jesus!



Introduction Activity Lost and Found

Supplies Needed:

- ▶ Small animal figurine (or something else small to hide)

As students are arriving, explain that you are playing a game of hide and seek. Ask all the students to close their eyes and then hide the small animal figurine somewhere in the room. All the students can then work together to find it. Whoever finds it, gets to be the next person to hide it.

Continue playing until almost all the students have arrived, and you are ready to begin your lesson.

Say: "Today we are going to talk about how God feels about people who are lost. He gives us some very clear instructions in how we are to look at and treat people who do not know Jesus."

Bible Lesson

Supplies Needed:

- ▶ A Bible for every student
- ▶ A ball of yarn
- ▶ Poster board with Matthew 28:19-20 written on it

Have every student join you in a circle and make sure they all bring their Bible (or grab one off the shelf). Begin by asking them if they can remember a shocking moment in a TV show or a movie? (Make sure to remind them to keep it church appropriate.) Say: "Usually if something shocking happens it is something we remember for a long time. Who remembers something shocking from the movie, The Lion King? When Mufasa died after saving Simba, everyone was shocked! No one expected the king to die. We especially didn't expect Scar to knock Mufasa off the ledge. That was so shocking! Shocking moments like these can stick in our brains forever. We often remember the moments in our lives that involve the most emotion."

"Who can remember one of the most shocking moments of the New Testament?" Allow a few students to answer and share what they thought was the most shocking moment and hopefully one or more of them will say the resurrection of Jesus. "When Jesus died on the cross, all of his followers were so sad and scared. They didn't know or understand what was happening. The man that had taught them everything was suddenly dead. BUT THEN.... Jesus rose from the dead. All of a sudden, he wasn't in the tomb anymore! And that was shocking!"

"The disciples (followers of Jesus) were told to go to Galilee and meet Jesus there. I bet they ran the whole way to Galilee to hear what Jesus had to say! They knew the next thing that he said would be the most important and very special. Jesus then shared with them a very special command that can be found in Matthew 28:16-20. Everyone get your Bible out and let's find those verses." Help every student work to find those verses.



Ask for a volunteer to read them aloud to the group. If any other student has a different version, allow them time to read their version of verses 19-20 in their Bible.

Matthew 28:19-20 "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, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

"Jesus' command was to go into all the nations and tell everyone about him and his story. He wants his followers to tell others about how much he loves them (enough to die a brutal death for them). Jesus also wants us to baptize them and teach them everything Jesus has taught us. This special Reach Texas Offering that we are celebrating today helps do exactly that! It helps churches around the entire state of Texas tell others about the good news of Jesus. By giving money towards this offering, we are helping spread the word of Jesus all around our state!"

Bring out the poster board with the key verse on it and post it prominently in the room. Say: "We are going to play a game to help us learn our key verse for today!"

Have all of the students stand in a circle where they can all see the poster board. Pick a student to start with the ball of yarn. They must say the first word of the verse and then pass it to another friend who will then say the second word of the verse. Continue until you have said the entire verse. If time allows, untangle the ball of yarn and play again.

Small Group Questions (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions to your group to help facilitate conversation and application.

1. What is a disciple?

A disciple is someone who has made the decision to follow Jesus.

2. What is the good news of Jesus that we are supposed to tell people?

The good news is the story of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and being raised from the dead on the third day!

3. Who are we supposed to tell this good news to?

All nations! That means we are to tell people in our neighborhood, school, state, country, and all over the world about Jesus.

4. Who has the responsibility to tell others the good news of Jesus?

Everyone who is a follower of Jesus has the same responsibility to tell others about Jesus. We are all in this together!

5. Who is one person this week you can tell about Jesus?

Allow students to share someone in their lives who may not know about Jesus.

Finish out the small group time with prayer that we would all be bold to tell others about Jesus and that God would work in the hearts of those we will tell.



Application Activities

*Feel free to choose as many activities as time allows.

Activity 1 "What is a disciple?"

Supplies Needed:

- ▶ Poster board with "Yes" written on it
- ▶ Poster board with "No" written on it
- ▶ Tape

Tape the two poster boards on either ends of the room. Say: "I am going to read different statements about what choices kids have made. If their action is an action of a disciple of Jesus, you will move to the "yes" side of the room. If their action is not an action of a disciple of Jesus, you will move to the "no" side of the room."

After you read each statement, pick a student from each side to explain why they chose the side they did. Make sure everyone knows the right answer and then have them all return to the middle of the room before reading off the next question.

Disciple Statements:

- ▶ Zachary made a new friend at school and invited him to come to church with him on Sunday. (YES)
- ▶ Susan made fun of someone at school who did not have name brand clothes. (NO)
- ▶ Stephanie shared her toys with a friend who did not have any toys. (YES)
- ▶ Aiden lied to his mom about something that happened at school. He then told his mom the truth and asked for her forgiveness. (YES)
- ▶ Rachel gossiped about someone at school. (NO)
- ▶ Christopher cheated on a test at school because she forgot to study for it. (NO)
- ▶ Rebekah stood up for a friend at school when they were getting made fun of on the playground. (YES)

Say: "You did a great job figuring out who was a loving disciple and who was not a loving disciple. Jesus calls us to love others and tell them all about him. In order for people to want to listen when we tell them about Jesus, we must first be kind and loving towards them. Jesus was very clear in the Bible that he wants us to love everyone all the time. It doesn't matter what they look like, sound like, or act like. Jesus wants us to love them."



Activity 2 “Come and Follow Me”

Supplies Needed:

- None

Pick one person in your group to play the role of Jesus. If you have a small group, you can play the role of Jesus. Jesus will then pick one student (Disciple #1) to tell them good news. Jesus then commands Disciple #1 to go and tell two more friends the good news. After that, Disciple #1 returns and brings Disciples #2 and #3 back to Jesus. They must go in turn and each tell two more friends about Jesus. Continue until the whole room has “been told” the good news about Jesus.

Say: “This is how easy the story of Jesus can multiply! All we had to do was each tell two people and soon the whole room had heard about Jesus. This is why Jesus commands us to go and tell others about him. His story is the best news ever and has the power to transform our lives. All we have to do is tell others about him, and they can receive his power as well.

Activity 3 “I Can”

Supplies Needed:

- Large poster board or butcher paper with “I Can” written on it (one per room)
- Markers and crayons (one set per room)

Write “I Can” on a big poster board or sheet of butcher paper. Encourage the students to think about ways they can serve and love others. These may include: telling others about Jesus, sharing toys with others, giving money, being kind to others, serving God, praying for others, and inviting them to church.

They can write these actions or draw pictures of them around the entire poster board. Encourage them to be as creative as possible.

After it is finished, hang the poster board somewhere in your classroom to serve as a reminder to your students how they can serve and love others.



Activity 4 “Tell People in Texas”

Supplies Needed:

- ✦ Outline of the state of Texas on cardstock (one per student)
- ✦ Hole punch (one per room)
- ✦ String or yarn (one piece for student)
- ✦ Markers or crayons (one box per room)

Find an outline of the state of Texas on cardstock. Make sure it is big enough that the kids can write and draw on it. Print and cut out a copy for every student.

Hole punch the top of the outline and allow kids to tie string or yarn through the top, so they can hang their “State of Texas” at home.

Have the students write “Matthew 28:19-20” on their outline. They can either write the whole verse or just the reference. Then they will think about someone in their lives that they can tell about Jesus. It might be a neighbor, a family member, or a friend. Have the students draw a picture of that person or simply write their name on their “State of Texas”.

Encourage them to hang this “State of Texas” somewhere in their room to remind themselves to pray for their person and tell them about Jesus.

Say: “Jesus calls us to tell everyone about him. This includes people all over Texas. This special offering that we are celebrating today helps equip churches all over Texas to go out into their cities and neighborhoods to tell people about Jesus.”