

MARVEL

MT. LEBANON PRETEEN CAMP | 2020

FOR YOU ARE GREAT AND DO MARVELOUS DEEDS; YOU ALONE ARE GOD. PSALM 86:10

Marvel

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Camp Gap Bible Study Introduction

The theme for this year at Camp Gap is "**Marvel**"

Bible Study Sessions:

Lesson 1: Marvel Universe

This lesson introduces the theme for the week and the Bible verse Psalm 86:10. The story of Jesus calming the storm shows that God has authority over the physical world.

Lesson 2: The Healing Factor

This lesson from Matthew 8 deals with Jesus' authority over illness and disease.

Lesson 3: I Need The Hero

This is a salvation lesson. God has authority over sin and death. This lesson from Luke 23-24 talks about Jesus' death and resurrection.

Preparation

1. Prepare a colorful poster for your Bible Study area. Title the poster "Marvel." See Item 1-a, you may copy or enlarge this to use as your poster. Each Bible Study session will include a lesson title page and other visuals that you may add to the poster and Bible study area daily.
2. Each session list supplies that you will need to gather before camp. These items include making copies of visuals and activities for the lessons. Some items will be more effective if copied on card stock or colored paper. If your church does not have adequate copiers, please contact the Mt. Lebanon Office immediately at 972-291-7156 for help. Prepare early.
3. Quiet time booklets are available that encourage individual learning each day as well as time alone with God.
4. The Bible Study and quiet time material will use the NIV translation of the Bible. It is suggested that the Bible study teacher use the NIV translation.

Marvel

Session 1: Marvel Universe

Purpose:

- To introduce the “Marvel” theme.
- To encourage students to think about what makes them marvel.
- To introduce the memory verse Ps. 86:10.
- To show that God has authority over the physical world.

Scripture used:

- Mark 4:35-41, Matthew 8:23-27

Memory Verse:

- Psalms 86:10, “For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God.”

Supplies Needed:

- Copy of title poster “Marvel,” see item 1a
- Copy of lesson title page, “Marvel Universe,” item 1b
- Blue table cloth
- Objects for race, such as rock, toy boat and balloon, see transition to Bible Study
- Copy of Psalms 86:10/child on cardstock, cut apart (optional) Item 1c
- Fun tak or tape

Teacher Preparation for Bible Study

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

Main idea:

- God has authority over the physical world.

Introduce the Bible Study:

Welcome to camp and the first day of Bible study. This week our theme is “Marvel.” What do you think of when you hear the word “marvel”? Listen to responses and post the Bible study title poster, item 1a. Many people today think of Marvel Comics and the superheroes that star in those comics. Does anyone know any characters from Marvel Comics? Some of them are Spider-man, Wolverine, Iron Man, Captain America, the Hulk, the Fantastic Four, the Guardians of the Galaxy, X-Men and the Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Most of these fictional characters live in the Marvel Universe. Marvel Comics is not just made up of comic books but also has video games, movies, collectible cards and other merchandise for sale. There are a lot of heroes in Marvel Universe that try to save the world. The characters featured often have super-natural powers that may cause people to marvel at their abilities.

What do you think the word “marvel” means? The definition of marvel is “to be amazed at, to express astonishment or surprise about something or something that causes feelings of wonder.” When it first entered the English language marvel meant a miracle. Now when someone uses the word marvel it generally means something that amazes us.

Our lesson today is called “Marvel Universe.” Post the lesson title poster, item 1b. Although our theme is “Marvel,” this week we are not going to be discussing all the heroes of the comics. This week we are going to look at some events from the Bible that should cause us to marvel or be amazed.

Transition to Bible Study:

Today we will start our Bible study with a race. Choose three or more volunteers to help you create a race. To prepare lay a blue table cloth on the floor. Tell the students to pretend that this is the Sea of Galilee. Give each of the volunteers an object to race with. You should have some light objects and some heavy objects for example you might use a rock, a small boat, and a balloon. Explain that the rules are simple. Each of the volunteers must put their object at the starting line. On the leaders “go” the volunteers must move their object as quickly as possible from the start to the finish line. To move their object all they can use is their wind power. They must blow on their object to get it to move. If the object comes off the sea they must start at the beginning again. Tell all the students to cheer on the volunteers and begin the race. You will want to once or twice grab one side of the table cloth and move it like you are making waves. Some of the objects will not move just by being blown on.

When the race is over thank the volunteers and ask them the following questions. Why did some volunteers do better than others? Was it difficult to control the object? Could you control what happened when you blew on the object? Could you control what the water did?

Ask the entire group: In our game what could the volunteers control? What could they not control? In life are there things that we cannot control?

Teach the Bible Lesson:

Have half the students open their Bibles to Matthew 8:23-27 and half of the students open their Bibles to Mark 4:35-41. Have a student or leader read each set of verses to the entire group.

Help the students understand the lesson by giving them some background information. This is the same story presented by two different authors so some of the details of the story are a little different. These verses find Jesus and his disciples in a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee is a lake in a basin surrounded by mountains. This deep lake is heart shaped and is about six miles across with lots of fish. The Sea of Galilee is predisposed to frequent, sudden, violent storms. Jesus had been teaching all day. He asked the disciples to take Him to the other side of the lake. He is tired and quickly falls asleep. Then a violent storm starts. Jesus continues to sleep.

Have the students use the scripture they looked up to answer the following questions and compare what the Bible says in each passage. Remember that students may have different translations.

How does the scripture describe the storm?

Matthew 8 says, “without warning a furious storm came up.”

In Mark 4 it says, “a furious squall came up and the waves were breaking over the boat.”

It was a bad storm. Storms can be scary sometimes even when we are inside. The disciples and Jesus were in a boat in the middle of a lake.

What did the disciples do?

In Matthew 8 & Mark 4 it says, “they woke Jesus.” They did go to the right place when they were scared.

What did the disciples say?

In Matthew they said, “Lord save us we’re going to drown.”

In Mark they said, “Teacher don’t you care if we drown?”

The storm was bad enough the disciples were worried they may not make it. Remember some of these disciples were fishermen and were accustomed to sometimes being caught in bad weather on the lake.

What did Jesus do about the storm?

Matthew says, “He rebuked the wind and waves and it was calm.”

Mark says, “He rebuked the wind and told the waves, quiet, be still.”

The word *rebuke* in this sentence is a verb, meaning to sternly reprimand or scold. It is like He treated the wind and waves like a small child that was having a temper tantrum.

What was the sea like after Jesus did those things?

Matthew says, “it was completely calm.”

Mark says, “the wind died down and it was completely calm.”

How did the disciples feel after the storm?

Matthew says, “amazed” and Mark says “terrified.”

The disciples did not expect the storm to suddenly be gone. They were awed at what happened. They marveled.

Why did they feel that way?

The wind and waves obeyed Jesus.

The disciples saw Jesus' power over nature and it caused them to be amazed or terrified. The disciples marveled that the wind and waves obeyed Jesus. They asked, "Who is this?" How would you answer that question? Who could possibly have power or authority over the physical things of this world? God has authority over the physical world. If you have the authority to do something, you have the right and power to do it.

Apply the Lesson:

We all have things that scare us. The disciples were so scared they thought they might die, but they did know who to ask for help. They went to Jesus. When something upsets us we need to go to Jesus.

We serve a King who has absolute authority over every square inch of creation. This authority extends not only to animals, plants, and weather patterns, but also to every human being on the planet. Understanding this should give us comfort as we live in a world that is sometimes scary and unpredictable to us.

Remember that God is always in control. In the verses we studied today Jesus controlled nature. We need to not focus on the waves or things that upset us in life but focus on God. He is in charge of our universe. He has power over all things. Even the winds and waves obey Him.

Memory Verse:

Our memory verse this week is Psalms 86:10, "For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God." Have all the students find that verse in their Bibles. Have several students read it out loud. Ask, what three things does this verse tell us about God?

1. He is great.
2. He does marvelous deeds
3. He alone is God.

Today let's think about the part of the verse that says, "For you are great." Think of some things that make God great. Don't say them out loud yet, but think of a few things that you can name in a minute. It could be something you already knew or something from the lesson today.

Now, let's see how many ways we can think of that show God is great. Have a shepherd time the group and someone else keep count as you point to students that thought of a way that God is great. Quickly see how many things the students can name. Give the students two minutes to list things that show God is great.

Focus on learning those four words today. Start with the students whispering "For you are great" and then get louder each time until the students are shouting the phrase. Then you may want to reverse it and start loud and get as soft as possible.

You may want to prepare and give students a copy of the verse on cardstock to put in their Bibles or post on their bed so they can continue to work on the verse throughout the day. See item 1c.

Closing:

Remind students that God has authority or control over nature and we should always come to Him when we are afraid.

Pray for the students that they will remember that “even the wind and waves” obey God.

Extra Challenges (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):

1. As you go about your activities today ask questions about who is in control of nature. For example: who controls the weather? Or who can make the wind blow?
2. Try whispering and getting louder with the words from the Bible verse again. Maybe after an activity when they finish the prayer you can lead your students again in saying “For You are great.” Just tell them to do it after they hear amen.

Marvel

Session 2: The Healing Factor

Purpose:

- To show how God has authority over illness and disease
- To encourage students to have compassion and pray for those that are sick

Scripture used:

- Matthew 8:1-17

Memory Verse:

- Psalms 86:10, “For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God.”

Supplies Needed:

- Lesson title page “The Healing Factor” item 2a
- Fun tak or tape

Teacher Preparation for Bible Study

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

Main Idea: God has authority over illness and disease.

Introduce the Bible Study:

In Marvel comics a healing factor is a term used to describe the ability to recover from bodily injuries or disease at a superhuman rate. For example, The Hulk has probably the quickest healing factor of anyone in the Marvel Universe. Wounds that would be deadly to most other heroes take just a short time for the Hulk to heal. Of course, Marvel comics are fictional and their healing factors are also fictional. In comics, healing factors just make for an interesting story. Today our lesson is called “The Healing Factor.” Post lesson title page, item 2a.

Tell the students about a time you were sick or injured and had to have medication or a doctor’s help to get better. When we are sick or injured we might wish that we could recover at a superhuman rate, but we do not have superhuman powers.

Transition to Bible Study:

During the time that Jesus lived on earth all the medical knowledge that we have today did not exist. There were no hospitals or antibiotics or shots to prevent disease. Anesthesia which numbs sensations during surgery was not used until the 1800s. Man didn’t discover germs until 1854 and after that they could start inventing vaccines. Before modern medical discoveries if someone got a serious illness they may just have to live with it the rest of their lives.

In today’s lesson we are going to see that Jesus cares about people that are sick and He has authority (healing factors) over illness and disease.

Teach the Bible Lesson:

Divide your students into three groups. Assign each group one of the stories of Jesus’ healing from today’s lesson. If you have many students you may want to make additional groups and give the same assignment to multiple groups. The assignments are:

1. The man with leprosy—Matthew 8:1-4
2. The centurion’s servant—Matthew 8:5-10, 13
3. Peter’s mother-in-law—Matthew 8:14-16

Have the students get together to read and study their passage. You may want a shepherd to work with each group. The groups should select someone to be the spokesman that will tell the story to all the students. Give the groups about ten minutes to read and discuss what happened in their scripture.

After the students have prepared in their small groups call the attention back to the front and go through the scripture together. First, have the selected student tell in his own words about the man with leprosy. Make sure the following points are covered:

- This man had leprosy which is a contagious skin disease that is caused by bacteria.
- Because of his disease the man would need to live separate from other non-infected people and he had to make sure people knew he had this disease.
- When the man saw Jesus he came to Him and knelt down even though he was not allowed to be near other people.
- The leper called Jesus “Lord” and he knew Jesus could heal him.
- Jesus touched the leper (remember he was contagious) and told him to “be clean.”

- The leprosy was healed immediately.

Next, have the selected student tell the story of the centurion. Make sure the following points are covered:

- A centurion was a Roman soldier that commanded over 100 men.
- The centurion sought Jesus out asking for his help in healing a paralyzed servant that was suffering.
- The centurion called Jesus “Lord.”
- Jesus said He would go to the servant and heal him.
- The centurion said he did not deserve to have Jesus at his house and that he knew Jesus could just say the words and his servant would be healed.
- Jesus commented about how great the man’s faith was and Jesus healed the servant right then.

Lastly, have the students that read about Peter’s mother-in-law tell the story from their verses. Make sure the following points are covered:

- Jesus went to Peter’s house.
- Peter’s mother-in-law was sick with a fever and lying in bed.
- Jesus touched her hand, and the fever left and she got up and began to wait on the disciples (maybe fix a meal).
- Verse 16, tells us that Jesus also healed all that were brought to Him that evening and that there were many.

Apply the Lesson:

We looked at three stories of Jesus healing people. Jesus could heal with a word, a touch and even when the person He was healing wasn’t where Jesus was. We just looked at three stories. Jesus healing stories are amazing and His “healing factor” is not fictional just to make the story interesting. Jesus can really heal people. If you were to read the gospels you would find 31 stories of Jesus healing individuals and several times when Jesus healed many. We think it is wonderful that Jesus healed people but today we do have doctors and hospitals and medicines that can help heal people. So what should we remember about Jesus healing people?

This lesson reminds us that Jesus is God. We need to recognize Jesus is the Lord; He is the one that can help. He has authority over disease and illness. Even with doctors and hospitals and medicines if we know someone that is sick we should also be asking God to heal them. God obviously cares about people that are hurting. If you really care about someone that is ill or sick in some way you need to remember God has the authority to heal. Keep praying for them.

We need to have faith that God can heal. The leper knew Jesus could heal him. The centurion knew Jesus could heal without even going to the sick person. When someone you love is sick or you are sick you should pray and have faith that God will do what is best for that person. God loves us and has great compassion.

Memory Verse:

Have the students look up Psalms 86:10, “For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God.” Have several students read or say the verse.”

Today we want to focus on the middle section of this verse. That part says, “and do marvelous deeds.” God does marvelous deeds. Yesterday we thought about why God was great. Now think about some marvelous deeds God does. Our stories today talked about marvelous deeds. Let’s see if we can name at least ten marvelous deeds that God does. Help the students come up with a list of at least ten things God does for example, answers prayers, protects us, loves us, heals people, brings salvation to people, or creates new life.

Closing:

If you have time you may want to let the students give prayer request for those they know that need to be healed in any way. Pray that the students will see people with compassion and care for their needs. Thank God that he cares for our needs.

Extra Challenges (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):

- Look for people today that you can practice showing compassion to by helping in some way. Maybe it is just holding the door open for someone or letting someone in a hurry go in front of you. Maybe you can listen to a friend or find some extra time to pray for someone you know is hurting.
- Challenge students to make a list of things Jesus has authority over. Yesterday we talked about nature, today about illness; what else does God have authority over? Be specific.

Marvel

Session 3: I Need The Hero

Purpose:

- To help students understand the plan of salvation.
- To show that God has authority over sin and death.

Scripture used:

- Romans 3:23 and 6:23, Luke 23:32-43, Luke 24:1-8

Memory Verse:

- Psalms 86:10, “For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God.”

Supplies Needed:

- Copy of lesson title page, “I Need The Hero” item 3a
- Paper/child
- Pencil/child
- Tape or fun tac

Teacher Preparation for Bible Study

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea and the plan of salvation.
- Review the plan of salvation.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

Main idea: God has authority over sin and death.

Introduce the Bible Study:

Every Marvel story has a superhero. Superheroes are a relatively new phenomenon having been around for less than a century. They have, however, become an ingrained part of popular culture. Their power and sense of justice have long moved and entertained people both young and old. At times people might think it would be nice to have a superhero around. Which superhero would you choose to be? We do need a supernatural force to rescue us. Today we will talk about why we need to be rescued. Post item 3a, lesson title page for “I Need The Hero”

In the last two days we have talked about God’s power or authority over nature, disease, and illness. Today we will continue to look at God’s authority. Today we will talk about God’s authority over sin and death.

Sin and death are not very pleasant things to think about but that is just what we are doing today. Let’s start by talking about sin. What is sin? Sin is anything we do wrong according to God. What are some sins? Have the students name several sins and then give them paper and a pencil. Ask the students to think about what sins they personally have committed and write them on the paper. They do not need to put their name on the paper. You might mention some sins while they are trying to think about their sins. Give them a few minutes to write and then have them fold the paper once or twice and turn it in.

Transition to Bible Study:

Was it difficult to think of the things you do wrong? We often try to forget our sins because we don’t like to remember what we have done if it is wrong. The Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 that, “all have sinned.” When you do something wrong you may try to hide it or blame someone else. Why do we do that? We do it because we are uncomfortable with what we did and there might be a punishment or consequence for our wrong action. The Bible teaches in Romans 6:23 that the punishment/consequence for sin is spiritual death or separation from God. Jesus made it possible for you to avoid that consequence because even though Jesus had done nothing wrong He died on the cross to save us from sin’s punishment.

Teach the Bible Lesson:

Have students open their Bibles to Luke 23. Read verses 32-43. These verses talk about the day that Jesus died. He was crucified which means He was executed by being nailed to a cross. Let’s look at each verse that we read and observe what happened when Jesus died. Here are some things you might want the students to notice in these verses.

- Verse 32: There were two other men that were crucified at the same time Jesus was crucified. Crucifixion was a common method of death for criminals at that time. The other two men were criminals.
- Verse 33: The criminals were on either side of Jesus.
- Verse 34: Jesus prayed and asked God to forgive the people that crucified Him. Also, they gambled for Jesus’ clothes.
- Verse 35: The people made fun of Jesus saying “let Him save himself.”
- Verse 36: The soldiers “mocked (ridiculed)” Jesus and offered Him sour wine.
- Verse 38: There was a sign above Jesus’ head that said, “This is the king of the Jews.”

- Verse 39: One of the criminals told Jesus to save Himself and the criminals.
- Verses 40-41: The other criminal rebuked (to criticize or reprimand somebody, usually sharply) the first. This second criminal realized he was being killed for the wrong he did but that Jesus didn't do anything wrong.
- Verse 42: The second criminal asked Jesus to remember him.
- Verse 43: Jesus said the second criminal would be with Jesus in paradise.

As you can see, the people in this story responded differently to Jesus.

The people, the rulers and the soldiers were making fun of Jesus and telling him to save himself. Could Jesus have saved himself? Yes! Jesus is God. He could have come down from the cross. Why do you think He didn't? Jesus could not save Himself and save us. He chose the cross so we could be forgiven.

The first criminal was thinking about how this situation could help him. He had done something wrong and was sorry he got caught. He didn't really believe Jesus could do anything but if Jesus could save Himself this criminal wanted to make sure he got off his cross too. He wasn't sorry for what he had done and he didn't believe Jesus could do anything about it.

The second criminal recognized Jesus was God. This guy knew Jesus had done nothing wrong. This criminal realized he deserved to be on the cross but Jesus did not. This criminal asked Jesus to remember him. In front of everyone he owned his sin (admitted he was wrong), trusted Jesus and gave himself to Jesus. He knew Jesus had authority over sin.

In this story we see three different responses to Jesus. How do you respond to Jesus?

Apply the Lesson:

We wrote down sins earlier. Did you realize you sin—you do things that God has said are wrong? Do you realize you deserve to be punished? The criminal that realized he had done wrong and deserved his punishment also realized Jesus was God and could rescue him. This criminal was admitting that he was a sinner, believing Jesus was God and confessing in front of everyone that Jesus was a king.

As we started this lesson you wrote down sins that you admitted you had done. These and other sins separate you from God. Jesus will forgive anything that you wrote down if you believe that Jesus died for your sin and rose again and you are ready to confess that He will save you. Those are the steps you take to have a relationship with God. This is how God chose to rescue people from sin and spiritual death. You must admit you are a sinner, believe Jesus died for you and confess that you want God to be in charge of your life.

Some of you have already taken those steps. If you have not done that and want to you can today. Just find some time to talk to God or ask a shepherd about it. God wants to forgive you and be in charge of your life. God has authority over sin and can forgive anything that you do. God is the hero we all need.

Memory Verse:

In our memory verse, Psalms 86:10, “For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God.” We have been looking at a different section each day. Today we focus on the last section that says, “You alone are God.” No one else can save us from our sin. No one else died for us so we could have a relationship with God. No one else has authority over sin and death. No one else is God.

Let several students say the memory verse to the entire group.

Closing:

We don't usually like to think about death. In Marvel comics there is a saying that goes, “No one stays dead in the world of Marvel Comics.” In the comic book fan community, the apparent death and subsequent return of a long-running character is often called a comic-book death. While death is a serious subject, a comic-book death is generally not taken seriously and is rarely permanent or meaningful.

Jesus' death was meaningful because he took what we deserved so that we could have a relationship with God. Because of Jesus we no longer need to be separated from God. We can live as His children. Jesus has authority over sin.

Jesus' death was not permanent. Read Luke 24:1-8 to the students. Jesus died for our sins but he also rose again. Today we can celebrate because Jesus took our punishment for us, but also because Jesus is alive. One day we will get to meet Him face to face and will bow before Him. Jesus has authority over death.

Pray that all the students will let God be in control of their lives.

Extra Challenges (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):

1. Share your story. How did you come to know Jesus? It helps us to hear how others came to realize their sin, believe in Jesus and confess Him as Lord. Find a time today to tell the students your story and ask about theirs.
2. Talk more about superheroes and compare their power to God's power.

Marvel

Bonus Session: Great Power-Great Responsibility

Purpose:

- To help students understand the Great Commission.
- To show that God has all authority.
- To encourage students to “Go and make disciples.”

Scripture used:

- Matthew 28:16-20

Memory Verse:

- Psalms 86:10, “For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God.”

Supplies Needed:

- Copy of lesson title page, “Great Power-Great Responsibility,” item 4a
- Disciples names, cut apart, item 4b
- 128 pieces of wrapped candy in a brown paper bag
- Tape or fun tac

Teacher Preparation for Bible Study

- Prepare teaching aids.
- Study the background teaching passages.
- Read the lesson and be ready to present it in your own words so that children understand the main idea.
- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and present the lesson.

Main idea:

- God has all authority and wants us to tell others about Him.

Introduce the Bible Study:

Remind the students of what we have learned so far this week. God has authority over nature, illness and disease, and sin and death. Today we will see that God has all authority. Our lesson title today is “Great Power-Great Responsibility.” “With great power comes great responsibility” is a quote that has sometimes been used in Spiderman movies. We will be talking about the great power or authority of God and our great responsibility. Post lesson title page item 4a.

Prepare in advance item 4b—cut apart the names and hide them around the Bible study room.

What are disciples? Sometimes when we think of disciples we think of the twelve men that Jesus called to follow Him. Disciples are followers of someone. Disciples learn from the person they follow and then they tell others what they have learned. Disciples are seriously dedicated followers or students of a teacher or leader. Since we usually think of the twelve disciples Jesus called to follow Him see if you can remember who those men were. Select a few students to search for the hidden names. After they have found the names have them (or the entire group) identify the ones that were part of the original twelve disciples--Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, Simon, Judas and Bartholomew.

After they have identified the twelve original disciples ask are the other names disciples of Jesus? Remind them that a disciple is a dedicated follower of Jesus that learns from Him and then tells others about Jesus. You might ask things like: Did Paul tell others about Jesus? Do you think Luke that wrote the books of Luke and Acts was a serious student of what Jesus taught? What about Timothy, who was a New Testament pastor, would he qualify as a disciple? What about you and me could we add our names to this list? Are we disciples of Jesus?

Transition to Bible Study:

So a disciple of Jesus is not just the twelve people Jesus selected to follow Him. Disciples are anyone that is a serious dedicated follower of Jesus that wants to learn what Jesus taught.

Jesus gives us the opportunity to follow Him and the power or authority to help others follow Him. Today we want to look a little closer at what Jesus’ disciples do and how we can be a disciple and help others become disciples.

Teach the Bible Lesson:

Have students open their Bibles to Matthew 28. Read or have a student read verses 16-20.

Yesterday we talked about Jesus’ death and resurrection. After He came back to life He appeared to many people. These verses record His last message to the disciples (to us) before He ascended to heaven. The first thing He tells them is that He has all authority. The disciples had seen His authority over the wind and waves, over illness and disease, over sin and death. We have read about Jesus’ authority over all of those things. If the disciples had any questions left or we have any questions about Jesus’ authority this is the answer. Jesus has all authority—all power.

Since Jesus has authority over all things He can give us an assignment or responsibility that we can complete by using His power. Without this declaration of Jesus' authority, we could never venture confidently to make disciples. What does Jesus tell us to do in verse 19? First, He says “go” and then “make disciples.” If you are following Jesus this command is for you. The “go” does not mean you have to go to another country or state or even another city to make disciples. This “go” could be read “as you go” or “while you are going.” In other words, anywhere you go or while you are going about doing life make disciples. It doesn't mean you have to move someplace else and tell those people that have never heard about Jesus about Him. It means as you go to school, as you play sports, as you talk to your friends, as you go to camp, as you go wherever you go tell the people you see and meet about Jesus.

Secondly, this verse tells us to “make disciples.” So we don't just go and tell people about Jesus. We don't just go and encourage people to let God be in control of their life. We don't just go and make sure people can call themselves Christians. We go and make disciples—people that want to follow God. We should make disciples that are totally committed to God. We want to make followers that want to continue to follow and learn more about God.

Next, the verse says we should baptize them. Once someone lets God really be in charge of their life, once they are truly a follower of Jesus then they should let others know that God is in charge by being baptized. When we know we are a totally committed follower and learner of Jesus then we want to let others know. We want to be baptized because being baptized tells the world that we plan to put God first in our life. We plan to be a lifelong disciple.

Lastly, verse 20 says we should teach others to obey Jesus' commands. A new Christian is often just beginning to learn what is in the Bible and what Jesus wants them to do. So once someone starts following Jesus those of us that have already been following Jesus need to help them learn more about Jesus and what He wants us to do. Sometimes we are happy our friend became a Christian and we should be, but we need to help them find a group of people, a church, a Bible study, which will help them become a true disciple of Jesus. We must make every effort to make sure new believers are not just Christians but are totally committed to Jesus. To do that we help them learn to worship God, to grow more like Jesus in what they do and say, to find a church to go to, to learn to serve God and to reach out and make more disciples.

Apply the Lesson:

If you have already asked Jesus to be your Savior there is a progression, a maturing that takes place. You start as a believer a simple follower of Jesus. Next you become a disciple as a baptized church member that is growing to know Jesus more and learn more about God. Then the next step would be to become a disciple maker. So you are telling others about Jesus and investing in their lives until they are disciples. You may want to draw this out for the students so they can see the steps.

Non-Christian → Christian believer → Disciple → Disciple maker

Where are you on that scale right now? Are you still thinking about becoming a believer? Have you become a believer but not moved from that spot? Are you a disciple, studying the Bible and growing to know more and more about God? Are you a disciple maker telling others about Jesus and helping them become disciples? The verses we looked at in the Bible today are called the Great Commission. In the Great Commission, Jesus calls every Christian to step out in faith and spread the Good News. This is faith in action! People who obey this command change their spiritual lives forever! It could be spreading the Good News to a neighbor or moving to another country to reach the people there. It could be sharing with less fortunate kids down the street or spreading the Word in a town two hours away. Wherever we go, every faithful Christian is compelled through obedience to share the Gospel. If you're a believer in Jesus Christ, where has He called you to go? Who has God put on your heart to share the gift of salvation? What small or large steps can you take, with the knowledge that Christ will be by your side, "to make disciples of all the nations"?

Memory Verse:

Review Psalms 86:10, "For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God." Because we serve a great God, because He does marvelous things, because He is the one and only God we need to be telling other about Him. If your friend knew the best thing in the world and never told you would you really consider him your friend? Wherever you go use God's power to tell others about Him.

Have students repeat the verse several times putting emphasis on each noun or pronoun that represents God. Emphasize these words: "For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God." Psalms 86:10.

Closing:

Sometimes we think we cannot make much of an impact in the world. In the verses we read today Jesus tells us that because He has authority over all we can change the world by making disciples one person at a time.

Before class put 128 pieces of candy in a brown paper bag and as you talk about telling others take out the number of pieces to represent the number of people that know God. Use the candy to show how one person can influence many. Start by taking one piece of candy out of the bag.

This piece of candy represents you when you first come to know God. You may be the only Christian in your family or in your group of friends, but after you come to know God you go and tell one other person about God and they come to know God. (Take out a second piece of candy.) Now there are two of you.

Now if each of you tells just one more person there are four people that know God and want to tell others (Take out candy to match the number you are talking about). Those four people can tell four others and there are eight. Those eight people can tell eight others and then there are sixteen. When sixteen people tell one other person there are thirty-two people and when thirty-two people tell one other person there are sixty four people. You can see how

quickly it multiplies if each person is bringing someone else to Jesus. Sixty-four can become one hundred and twenty-eight new disciples.

How many people are in our group? If we each go home from camp and tell one other person we could multiply to twice as many. Jesus tells us to go and make disciples. He gives us the power to do it.

Pray for the students to share Jesus with their family and friends. Pray they will become true disciples of Jesus.

Extra Challenges (to add to the lesson anytime during the day):

1. Today find the time to tell one person about Jesus. Even if they already know Jesus sharing your experience with them will help you learn to share with others. Every time you talk to someone about God it gets easier and you show that you are depending on God's power more.
2. Think about or make a list of who you see as you "go" in your life. What could you do to help them become disciples of Jesus?