

BIBLE STUDY MEDIA

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

HEARTS

A GOSPEL LECTIONARY CURRICULUM

ALIVE

YEAR A | SUMMER



New Growth Press, Greensboro, NC 27404
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Cover Design: Faceout Books, faceoutstudio.com
Interior Design, Illustration, and Typesetting: Scot McDonald

ISBN 978-1-945270-98-7

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The Rev. Charlie Holt, *Director*; Ginny Mooney, *General Editor*; Joni Tapp, *Project Manager*

Writers: Melanie McGehee, Ginny Mooney, Caryn Rivadeneira, Joni Tapp; *Editors:* Pam Lagomarsino, Ginny Mooney, Karalee Reinke, Joni Tapp; *Bible Backgrounds:* Nancy Beise

WELCOME TO HEARTS ALIVE

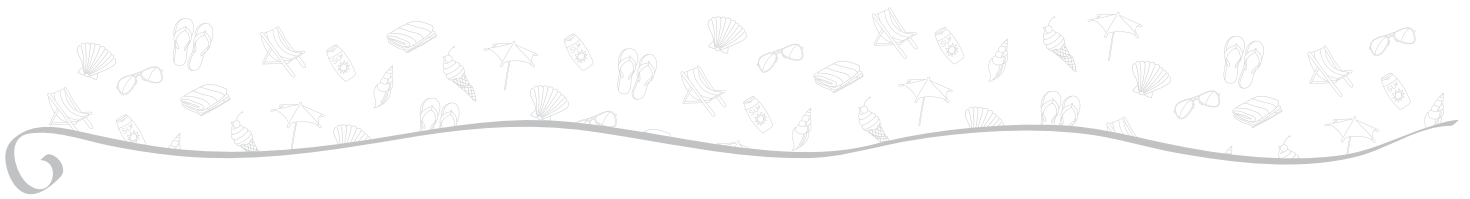
In the line of Christian formation resources for children, the *Hearts Alive* curriculum is something brand-new!

We have listened to the desire of churches to have a fully integrated weekly worship experience in which children and adults are engaged in exploring the same scriptural texts. Each lesson in both the Sunday School and Children's Church curricula is built on one or more readings taken from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a three-year cycle of Bible readings used by churches across denominations and around the world to guide weekly worship. By aligning the lessons of *Hearts Alive* to these common readings, families are able to have cross-generational discussions related to the worship service message, Sunday School, and Children's Church teachings.

While *Hearts Alive* is a natural fit for churches in the liturgical tradition that incorporate regular use of the RCL, its appeal is much broader. *Hearts Alive* is evangelical in its interpretation of Scripture and contemporary in its teaching style and life application. By using a sequential approach to Scripture teaching, *Hearts Alive* seeks to help churches train up young disciples in the whole Word of God, emphasizing a high view of scriptural authority and a gospel focus. The weekly age-specific lessons support and even elevate liturgical traditions as well as important observances in the church calendar while using clear and contemporary teaching techniques to present the Word of God in ways that will produce lifelong followers of Christ. *Hearts Alive* is flexible enough to fit any congregation, no matter how large or small, of any Christian denomination.

HEARTS ALIVE IS:

- ▶ Gospel-centered, emphasizing the story of salvation through Jesus Christ in every lesson.
- ▶ Scriptural, teaching the full scope of the Bible over a 3-year span following the RCL.
- ▶ User-friendly, making it easy for teachers and Christian educators to implement.
- ▶ Fun and engaging for children, offering age-appropriate storytelling, crafts, and activities.
- ▶ Family-oriented, providing a take-home page so parents and children can apply the lesson with activities throughout the week.
- ▶ Varied, offering both small- and large-group moments so children stay interested and engaged.
- ▶ Cost-effective for both small and large churches, available for quarterly purchase with price adjustments for volume.
- ▶ Downloadable, in a format that is easy to share with a whole team of leaders and volunteers.



What Each Lesson Provides

Each weekly *Hearts Alive* lesson provides two hours of material for children ranging from Pre-K/Kindergarten through Grade 6. The curriculum is divided into two categories: Sunday School and Children's Church. These two distinct curricula offer different themes for each week's lesson so that children participating in both programs have fresh, engaging material in each class.

Sunday School Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Sunday School curriculum is designed to be used during the Sunday School or Bible study hour of a church's weekly worship time. It is divided into three separate age groups and perfect for use in classroom-sized group settings. The age divisions are: Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (grades 1–3), and Upper Elementary (grades 4–6).

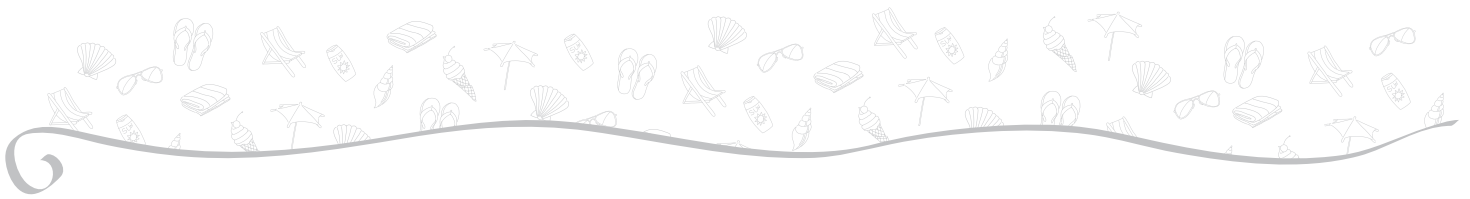
Children's Church Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Children's Church curriculum offers a weekly church experience tailored just for young followers of Jesus. It is intended for a larger, age-inclusive setting for children from pre-K through grade 5 (ages 4 through 11) designed to help them learn the basics of an adult worship service, including Welcome, Worship, Scripture Reading, Lesson, Creed, Prayer, and Offering. The larger group setting encourages children of varying ages to worship together, mirroring the generational integration of the church. At the close of each lesson, an age-specific breakout time ensures that every child, from the youngest to the oldest, can take part in a follow-up game, craft, or activity that will help them apply the week's lesson to their own lives. Many churches hold Children's Church during the first part of the adult worship service. After Children's Church concludes, there is time to welcome the children into the adult service for the final portion, often the celebration of Communion/the Eucharist.

How To Use The *Hearts Alive* Curriculum

Hearts Alive follows the 3-year cycle of the RCL. Because liturgical dates vary from year to year, specific dates are not assigned to the lessons. Instead, lessons are numbered and an accompanying online chart identifies which lesson falls on which calendar date for that specific year. In the heading of each lesson, you will find the Lectionary Year, Season, and Week number, plus the associated liturgical day (if applicable) and lectionary reading. This information can help you design your entire congregation's weekly worship experience around shared themes all year, providing a fresh unity to your congregation's spiritual focus and growth.

The first page of each Sunday School and Children's Church lesson includes Lesson Title, Key Scripture, Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Lesson Overview. The Big Idea summarizes in one or two sentences the main point you want the children to learn from that day's lesson. The Lesson Overview provides a more in-depth explanation of the key points of the lesson.



Next, there is a Lesson Outline chart to help you stay organized. It tells you what happens when. On this chart, you'll find each lesson component along with a time estimate for how long it will take, a list of the supplies you will need, and a list of the things you'll need to prepare before class for that activity.

A unique Bible Background study is provided for each lesson to help you prepare your heart and mind as a leader or volunteer before class. It aims to provide a thorough understanding of the biblical setting of the day's passage along with any helpful information to help you field questions the children may have about the lesson. (Detailed explanations of each lesson component follow below.)

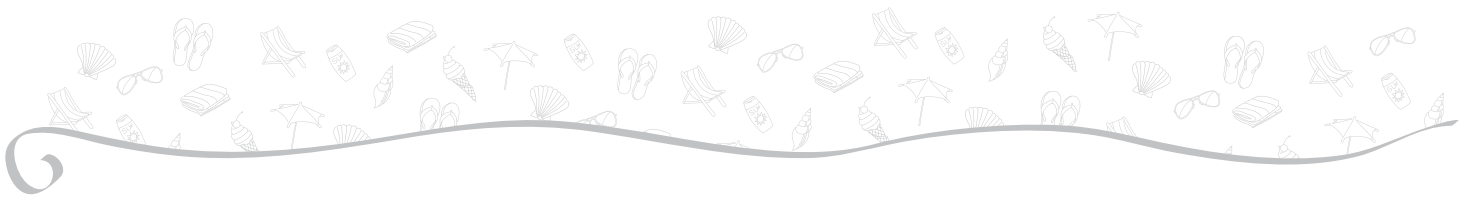
Anything that needs to be printed and possibly copied for each lesson (the "printables") are included in the download of each lesson. They are designed to be effective using simple black and white printing on standard-sized paper.

Finally, each lesson has a take-home page designed to be copied and sent home with the child. The resource is directed either toward parents (Sunday School) or children (Children's Church). Either way, parents are encouraged to use the resource to talk with their child about the week's lesson. The page also suggests ways to apply scriptural lessons all week through family discussions and activities.

The Children's Church Curriculum

The Hearts Alive Children's Church curriculum introduces children to an age-appropriate version of an adult worship service. Elements include Welcome, Worship, Scripture Reading, Lesson, Creed, Prayer, and Offering. By "mirroring" an adult service, children will learn how a service flows and understand the components of worship. They will recite a creed, sing worship songs, and hear a Scripture-based lesson. They will also discover various ways of serving in the church; with supervision, children play the roles of acolytes, readers, and offertory collectors. At the end of the worship component, there is a small group breakout segment with a craft, game, or activity to give the children a hands-on lesson application experience. Many churches escort children from Children's Church into the remainder of the adult service, just before Eucharist/Communion. Or, you may choose to have parents meet children after the adult service finishes. Either way, by participating in Children's Church, your congregation's young people will be ready to move comfortably into the adult service when the time comes.

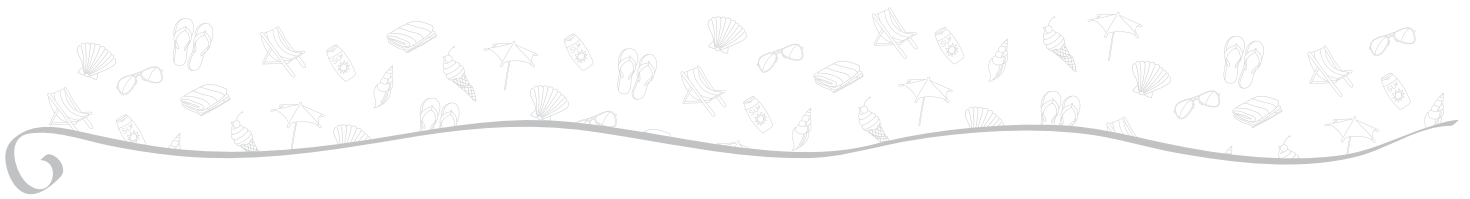
Each Children's Church lesson provides a large group "Lesson and Liturgy," which takes about 45–50 minutes, followed by a small group breakout session (divided by age), which takes about 10–15 minutes. We recommend using one large room for the Lesson and Liturgy so that all ages can get used to worshipping and serving together, then moving to smaller rooms for the small group breakouts. If your church does not have a large group space, you can hold Children's Church services in individual rooms for each age group. If you prefer to do everything in one large space, small



group breakouts may be held in different sections of the room. Either way, children will be dismissed from the small group breakout section either to be led into church or to meet their parents after the service.

Elements of the Lesson and Liturgy:

- ▶ **Lesson Introduction** – A group activity to start the children thinking about the Big Idea and its application.
- ▶ **We Gather** – This part of the lesson will be the same every week. You will designate children to participate in that week's service: readers, acolytes, and offertory volunteers. (You may choose children to help lead the songs as well.) Rotate the roles each week so every child has a chance to play each role at some point. Then you'll have your Opening Acclamation and Candle Lighting.
- ▶ **Welcome and Greeting** – This engaging activity gets the children interested in the upcoming lesson while introducing the Scripture theme and Big Idea.
- ▶ **Worship** – Enjoy this section of the service in whatever way works best for your group. Use the recommended songs that fit with the theme or choose others, have live accompaniment, or bring in CD recordings to sing alongside.
- ▶ **Word** – Since the Word of God is an essential element of worship, children will read each week's Scripture passage aloud. We recommend dividing the passage into a few sections for selected children to read.
- ▶ **Lesson** – The Children's Church lesson makes a departure from a traditional adult lesson. These lessons for young ones will be active, with movement and visual aids. Any needed printables are provided in the lesson download.
- ▶ **Discussion** – In this section, you can help children process what they learned in the lesson by asking key questions. If your group is large, we recommend walking around with a microphone so children can answer and be heard, or dividing up into groups so that leaders can hold small group discussions of the questions.
- ▶ **Large Group Closing** – Each week's large group session ends with a Creed, Prayer of Confession, Offering, and Extinguishing of the Candles. You may use the recommended Creed and Prayer of Confession or choose your own. Encourage children to bring in loose change or perhaps a dollar for the offering. Take time to explain why the offering is important and how the church uses it.
- ▶ **Small Groups and Wrap-Up** – After the candles are extinguished, divide children by age—Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary, and Upper Elementary—for the small group activity. Small group activities can be held in separate rooms or in



different parts of the large group space. The Wrap-Up is a short closing following the small group activity. At this time, hand out the "Walk It All Week" take-home page and make sure children take any crafts or activity pages home, too.

A Special Note to Leaders

Congratulations on your role in helping to shape young hearts and minds in the Christian faith. Children's Church is a time-honored tradition of inviting the youngest of Christ's family to get to know their Savior, their church family, and their place in the Kingdom of God through weekly participation in a child-friendly worship service. We have specifically designed the *Hearts Alive* curriculum to be everything you need to confidently lead an engaging time of worship, learning, and fun in the service of Christian formation. Here are a few specifics about the curriculum to help you in your role:

- *Hearts Alive* uses the New International Reader's Version (NIRV) of The Holy Scriptures. While remaining faithful to the original text, this translation is easy for children to read and understand. If you choose, you may use a different version in your lessons.
- We have included a unique Bible Background section specifically to help you get familiar with the background of the week's passage of Scripture. We recommend taking some time to read, pray through, and digest this information to help you be prepared for questions and good discussion.
- Much of the lesson content is bolded and prefaced by words like "Say:" or "Continue:" These sections are designed for you, the leader, to speak aloud. However, we suggest that you use the words as a guide rather than reading directly from the page. The most effective way to communicate with children is by making eye contact. Try reading the lesson several times to get a good idea of what you want to say and the main points of the Bible teaching. You may want to highlight the sections you want to be sure to mention specifically. Put other parts into your own words. Have the lesson handy to refer to on paper or electronic tablet as you go.
- Feel free to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of your class. If a different approach to the lesson works better, go for it! For example, you may choose to swap out drama for a visual aid in the lesson or vice versa. Use what is written as a guide to present the beauty and power of God's Word to your group of children in the most effective way possible.

Jesus said, "*Let the children come to me.*" What greater calling can there be than to lead precious young souls to the heart of God and the joy, peace, and power of living the Christian faith? We pray that you will find the *Hearts Alive* curriculum an exciting and effective way to bring the message of salvation to the children of your congregation and your community, even as your entire church body unites in the weekly exploration of God's Word together.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Year A | Summer | Week 1
Trinity Sunday



The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16–20

Big Idea:

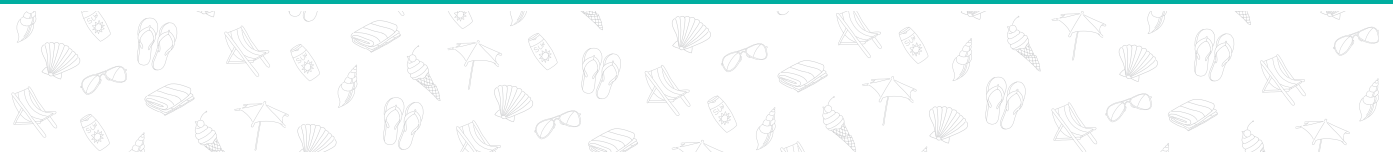
When Jesus ascended to heaven, he left us a job to do! He wants us to tell others about him. He promises to always be with us.

Memory Verse:

"Go and make disciples of all nations."
Matthew 28:19a

Lesson Overview

A disciple is someone who follows someone else's teachings to become like that person. When Jesus called his followers "disciples," it meant that he wanted them to be more than just students who listened to his words. He wanted them to give their lives to the task of becoming more like him. Jesus still wants this from his followers today. After he was resurrected, right before he left the earth and went back to heaven, Jesus gave his disciples specific instructions on what to do next. We call those instructions the "Great Commission." Jesus instructed his disciples to go all over the world, teaching others about him in order to make more disciples. The church is still called to fulfill this commission today.



Week 1 Lesson Outline	Activity and Supplies	To Prepare
Worship (15 minutes)	Welcome and Greeting Simon Says Songs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional: Music player with Web access Visit YouTube and search for "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" by CAM ArtMade. https://youtu.be/pOZQv7F-Z9s Visit YouTube and search for "Go and Make Disciples" by Kids Praise. https://youtu.be/JKDh7SkSoFI Word <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16–20 Appoint one or more readers to read the passage from the Bible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divide the Scripture passage into short sections for selected readers to read aloud.
Lesson and Discussion (20 minutes)	The Great Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible 	
Continue to Worship (10 minutes)	Creed Apostles' Creed (or preferred statement of belief) Prayer of Confession (or another prayer/confession from the prayer book) Offering and Closing	
What It All Means: Small Groups Divided by Age (10 minutes)		
Pre-K / Kindergarten Game: Your World Bingo Printables: Your World Bingo Cards (cardstock copies for children, plus one extra) Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bag of dry beans Small bowl or basket To Prepare: Copy the printables. Cut apart one card and set its pieces in the basket/bowl. Gather the remaining supplies.	Lower Elementary Activity: Teaching Is Showing Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy paper Pencils To Prepare: Gather the supplies.	Upper Elementary Activity: Making Disciples Printables: Making Disciples (one for each child) Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pencils Video player with Web access Visit YouTube and search for "Context Discipleship" by Cross-roads Kids' Club. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEjVo-oCDlw&feature=youtu.be To Prepare: Gather the supplies. Copy and cut apart the printables. Preview and queue the video.
Wrap Up (5 minutes)	Recap, pray, and distribute take-home pages	



Matthew's gospel ends with a radical change for Jesus's followers. They have completed their three-year discipleship under him and are now being charged with discipling others. Jesus had died and risen. His resurrection had proved his power. It sealed his authority in both heaven and earth. Now, he has not yet ascended but is preparing for it.

In the original Greek, Jesus's command to his followers is to "disciple." That task is more clearly described by Jesus with three actions—go, baptize, teach. This was going to be a difficult task. It would involve much more than telling others about Jesus; it would require demonstrating how to live the two greatest commands. Jesus's life had not been one of an ordinary rabbi, interpreting the law for his particular disciples. Jesus did not explain the law; Jesus lived and fulfilled it, in its true nature.

Jesus widens the scope of his disciples' task, charging them not only to disciple Jews, but to disciple the entire *world*. He foreshadows the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham that his descendants would be many and of many nations. Jesus ends with an encouragement that will seem much more mysterious soon—that he will always be with them. They will understand this promise on Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them.

THE LESSON & LITURGY

Worship

► We Gather

Prepare for Worship

Greet the children and assign or ask children to choose a job for today's service (examples include readers, acolytes, offertory, crucifer, etc.).

Opening Acclamation

With enthusiasm and boldness, say: **I was glad when they said unto me**, and children reply with enthusiasm in unison, "We will go to the house of the Lord!"

Candle Lighting

Acolyte will go up and light the candles on the altar.

The leader and children say:

Leader: What do the candles mean?

Children: The Light of the World!

Leader: Who is the Light of the World?

Children: Jesus!

► Welcome and Greeting

Simon Says

Say: **Today's Bible story is about listening and following instructions. Sometimes that's a hard thing to do. Let's practice some fun listening and following and see how well you do. Playing a game of Simon Says will show us who's listening. Everybody stand up. I will tell you to do some simple things; but, only do them if I first say Simon Says. Let's practice. Simon says, "Touch your head." Simon says, "Touch your toes." Simon says, "Clap your hands." Pat your knees. Oops! Simon did not say, "Pat your knees!" OK, now let's start the real game.**

Continue sharing the following prompts, occasionally omitting "Simon Says":

- Pat your head.
- Jump up and down.

- 
- Sit in your chair.
 - Stand up.
 - Turn in a circle.
 - Make a funny face.
 - Shout hooray!
 - Wiggle your whole body.
 - Fist bump the person next to you.
 - March in place.
 - Bark like a dog.
 - Raise your hands in the air.
 - Give me a thumbs up.

After you finish, say: **Great job listening! Although Simon is an imaginary leader in a game, we have real people in our lives who have authority to tell us what to do. Parents, teachers, and police officers are a few examples. Today's Bible story will remind us that Jesus has authority over everyone.**

Let's all stand up and sing about Jesus! You might recognize the first song as a Christmas song, but its message is true all the time.

Songs

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

"Go and Make Disciples"

Word

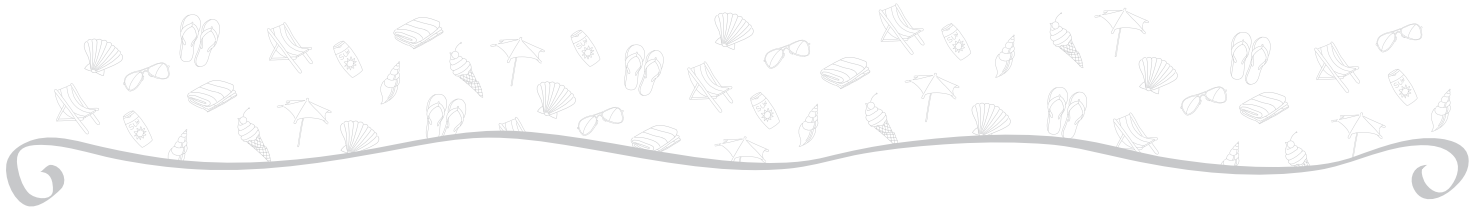
Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16–20

Have reader(s) among the children come to the front and read their designated portion of the passage. At the end, the final reader says: "The Word of the Lord," and children respond, "Thanks be to God!"

Lesson And Discussion

► The Great Commission

Say: **How many of you are familiar with the word *disciple*?** Let the children respond. **What is a disciple?** Let the children respond. **Those are all great ideas! A disciple is someone who follows someone else's teachings to become more like that person. So a disciple is kind of like a student—someone who learns from someone else. But a disciple is much more than that. A disciple listens to their teacher's words and does as they ask, like we did in Simon Says; but a disciple also changes their life to become more like their teacher. That means a disciple is a deeply committed follower! So when we talk about a disciple of Jesus, we**



are talking about someone who follows Jesus's teachings and life to become like him.

Today we'll learn what it means to *be* disciples, and also what it means to *make* disciples! You heard today's Bible passage a few moments ago—it is about one special event that happened. I will retell the event, and I want you to listen, especially for details about *who*, *what*, *when*, and *where*. I will divide you into four groups. Each group will listen for their question!

Divide the class into four groups of various ages. Assign each group one question: *Who* is in the story? *What* happens in the story? *When* does the story happen? *Where* does the story take place? You may further engage the children in listening by having them do something when they hear an answer to their question, such as raising their hands or standing up.


Hold up your Bible and say: **The Bible contains the greatest story of all time—the story of God and his relationship with the world. Because it's such an awesome story, with so many different parts, we usually don't read it from cover to cover. We read it in sections. So, we need to start by figuring out where we are in God's great story. What has already happened, and what's still yet to come? WHEN did this event take place?**

In today's lesson, we are in the gospel of Matthew. Is that in the Old or New Testament? Let the children respond. **Yes, in the New Testament. We are in Matthew chapter 28. Is that the beginning of the book of Matthew or the end of it?** Let the children respond. **Yes, the end.**

At the end of the book of Matthew, Jesus has already died and risen again. After he rose from the dead, he traveled from Jerusalem to Galilee. He spent forty days near Galilee, showing people that it was really him. He was really alive again! But Jesus did not come back to life so that he could live on earth forever. Jesus would soon go back to heaven. His job on earth was over. But before leaving, Jesus called his disciples to meet him at the mountain. The mountain was a place where Jesus and his disciples had spent a lot of time. Sometimes, Jesus had taught huge crowds on the mountain. This time, it would just be Jesus and his special eleven disciples.

When they arrived, some disciples recognized the risen Jesus, and they worshiped him. I wonder what that looked like. Did they worship him by pointing to him in excitement, by bowing down to him, by running to hug him, or by taking his hand and kissing it? The Bible doesn't say, so we can only imagine.

When they all arrived, Jesus said to his disciples, "I am in charge of everything. I have authority over heaven and earth." Wow! That's a powerful thing to say. Then, he gave them a job to do. He had already shown them who he was, the Savior and Messiah, and he had shown them how they should live in love and in God's power. Now it was their turn to show the world who Jesus



was and how they should live, too. They had been disciples of Jesus, and now they would be disciple-makers for Jesus!

How would they do this? Jesus said, “You will do this by baptizing people and by teaching them how to obey my commandments.” Jesus’s commandments were his Father’s commandments. Jesus knew that telling people the commandments was not enough. It had never been enough since his Father had given the Ten Commandments the first time. Jesus knew that teaching would include showing people how to love, not just telling them to love God and others.

Perhaps the most amazing part of their job was that Jesus told them to go and do this all over the world! He must have known how hard that sounded because he finished by telling them that he would always be with them.

I wonder how they felt. I wonder if they were excited or nervous to start this new job. Jesus had given them an assignment, and they wanted to obey him and do their best to complete it! Just like in our game when we all wanted to do what Simon Says. Everyone who follows Jesus wants to do what Jesus says! Jesus also says that his disciples should also go all over the world, helping other people become disciples, too. What an exciting job!

► Discussion

Say: **Let’s begin our discussion time by having a spokesperson from each group share your answers.** Allow each group to choose a spokesperson and then say: **Let’s start with the *when* group.** Allow each group time to share. As they do so, fill in any missing gaps, and encourage the children on a job well done.

- **When did our story take place?** (After Jesus had died and risen again, but before he returned to heaven; in the New Testament, in the book of Matthew)
- **Where did our story take place?** (Near Galilee, at the mountain where Jesus taught)
- **Who was there?** (Jesus and his eleven disciples)
- **What happened?** (The disciples worshiped Jesus. Jesus declared his authority over everything. Jesus told his disciples to go all over the world making new disciples. They would do this by telling people about Jesus, baptizing them, and teaching them how to obey Jesus.)
- **Each group did such a great job answering their question! I have one more question for everybody. We believe that this job of making disciples is also our job. Why would we believe it is our job, too?** Let the children respond. Affirm that if we are Jesus’s disciples, then we must obey him the same way his first disciples did. People can’t know about Jesus unless someone tells them, and we can be the ones who tell them!



Continue to Worship

► Creed

(Leader may choose preferred statement of belief.)

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

► Prayer of Confession

(Leader may also choose a prayer/confession from the prayer book.)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us your Word so that we can understand your will and grow closer to you. Right now, we ask you to forgive us for our sin. We are sorry and we are willing to change. We also ask you to help us forgive those who have done unkind things to us. We forgive them. Thank you, Lord, for loving us so much! We pray in Jesus's holy name. Amen.



► Offering

Ask for the offertory volunteer to come up. The volunteer walks around with the basket, collecting the offering. The child then brings the basket back to the altar and bows, then returns to sit down. If desired, you may play music or lead a song during offertory.

► Closing

Put Out the Candles

Call the acolyte to come up and extinguish the candles.

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Children: Thanks be to God. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

What It All Means

Divide children into age groups for follow-up activities.

Printables: Your World Bingo Cards (cardstock copies for children, plus one extra)

- *Bag of dry beans (or other Bingo markers)*
- *Small bowl or basket*

Say: **Jesus told his disciples to go all over the world and tell people about him! It is hard for kids to travel around the world to tell people about Jesus, but you can still tell people about him right where you are. Hold up one Bingo card. We will play Bingo where all the pictures on our cards show a different place or way that we can share Jesus's love with other people.** Distribute the Bingo cards. Set the beans on the table, accessible to all the children. Say: **Each time I draw a card and call out what it is, pick up one bean (or other marker) from the table and cover that picture on your Bingo card. When you cover up four pictures in a row—up and down, side to side, or diagonal—call out “Bingo!” As we play, we will talk about each picture and how we can share about Jesus.**

- For the picture of a house, ask: How can we share Jesus at home?
- For the picture from school, ask: How can we tell others about Jesus at school?
- For the picture of the older person, ask: How can we show the love of Jesus to the older people around us?
- For the picture of the soccer ball, ask: How can we show Jesus's love when we are playing or watching soccer or other sports?
- For the picture of a can of food, ask: How can we show Jesus's love to others with food?



What It All Means

Lower Elementary

Activity: Teaching Is Showing

Materials:

- Copy paper
- Pencils

To Prepare: *Gather the supplies.*

Say: **Jesus was the ultimate teacher, but he also knew that sometimes people need to see or experience things in order to learn them. So, in addition to teaching, Jesus *showed* his disciples how to love people. We're going to practice this as well. I'm going to divide you into teams, and each team has to *show* someone else how to do something.**

Divide the class into four groups. Distribute the writing supplies and assign one of the following tasks to each group:

1. Teach someone how to ride a bike.
2. Teach someone how to play a specific sport of the team's choice (e.g., volleyball, softball, basketball).
3. Teach someone how to do a team cheer or perform a specific dance.
4. Teach someone how to make a bed or set a proper table.

Allow each group five minutes to discuss how they would teach another person to do their assigned task. Point out that, in each case, the best way to teach a person is to *show* them how to do it, not just tell them. They can write, draw, or simply discuss their ideas. After several minutes, have them share their ideas with the class. Applaud each presentation and say: **Showing is the best way of teaching, and that's exactly how Jesus taught his disciples to live. If we want to be his disciples, we need to look at how Jesus lived and try to live the same way.**

Activity: Making Disciples

Printables: *Making Disciples* (one for each child)

Materials:

- Pencils
- Video player with Web access
- Visit YouTube and search for "Context Discipleship" by Crossroads Kids' Club.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEjVo-oCDlw&feature=youtu.be>

To Prepare: Gather the supplies. Copy and cut apart the printables. Preview and queue the video.



Say: **What is a disciple?** Let the children respond. **Yes! A disciple is someone who follows someone else's teachings to become like that person. We know the Bible tells us that Jesus's disciples didn't just occasionally go out to hear him teach; they left everything behind to follow him. The first disciples of Jesus didn't just believe in him as their Savior and Lord, but they also changed their lives to be like him. This is still true for us today! Thankfully, Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit to help us. Once we are his disciples, then the Great Commission we heard about today calls us to tell others how to be Jesus's disciples too. First, be a disciple; then, make more disciples.**

Let's watch a video that explains more about this task of disciple-making. As you watch, see if you can fill in the blanks to help you remember the information. Distribute the printables and writing supplies.

Play the video.

Say: **Did anybody catch what the phrase *making disciples* means?** Let the children respond. **Yes, making disciples means showing people how to be more like Jesus. And then, at the end, the video gave us three ways to do that. Does anybody remember what they are?** Let the children respond. **They are: making friends, talking to God, and loving people everywhere. So, even though "making disciples" might sound hard or scary, it's actually quite simple!**

Answer Key: Making Disciples

Making disciples means showing people how to be more like Jesus.

Question: How can you show people how to be more like Jesus?

1. By making friends.
2. By talking to God.
3. By loving people everywhere.

Use the rest of your time to brainstorm with the kids what disciple-making might look like



What It All Means

Upper Elementary (continued)

in their context. Encourage creative thinking. Point out all the different places where they can practice the three steps: at home, at school, on a sports team, in a club, at a party, etc. Encourage them to think about all three steps—friendship, prayer, and love—in each context. End with a prayer asking God for courage and faith to first be a disciple and then make more disciples.

Wrap Up

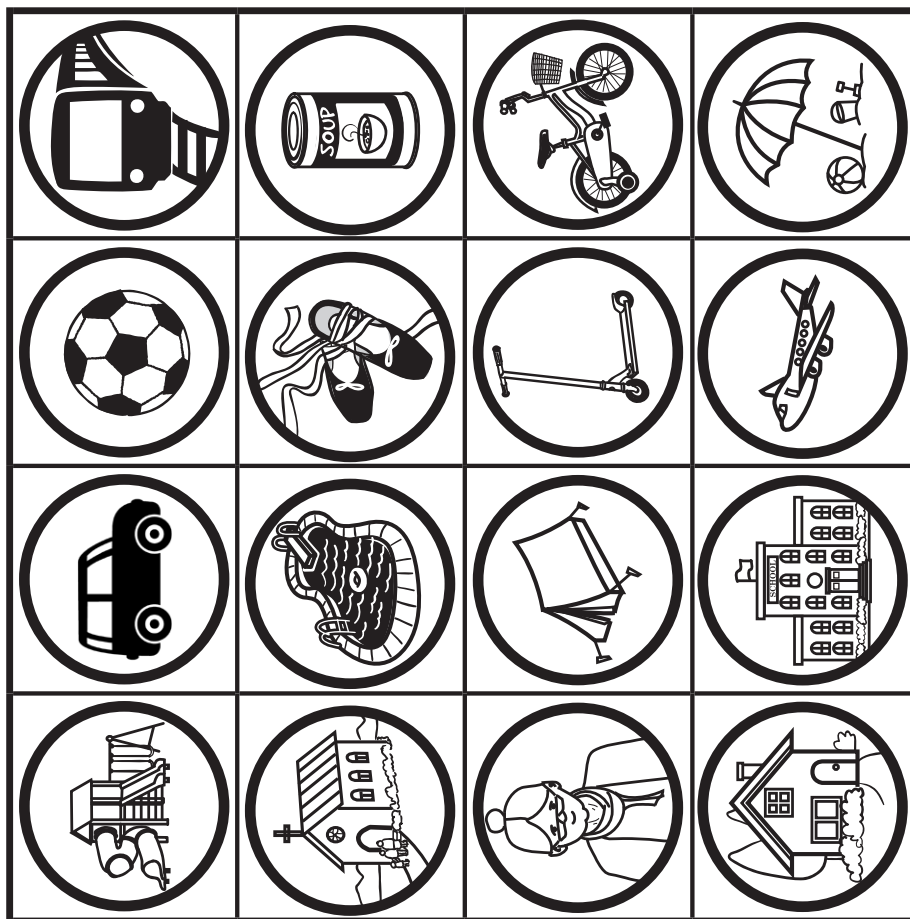
Say: **Each time we leave our church service, we remember the job Jesus gave his disciples to do. We often say: “Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.”**

Let’s say this part together, “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” Repeat a few times with the children, getting softer and then louder.

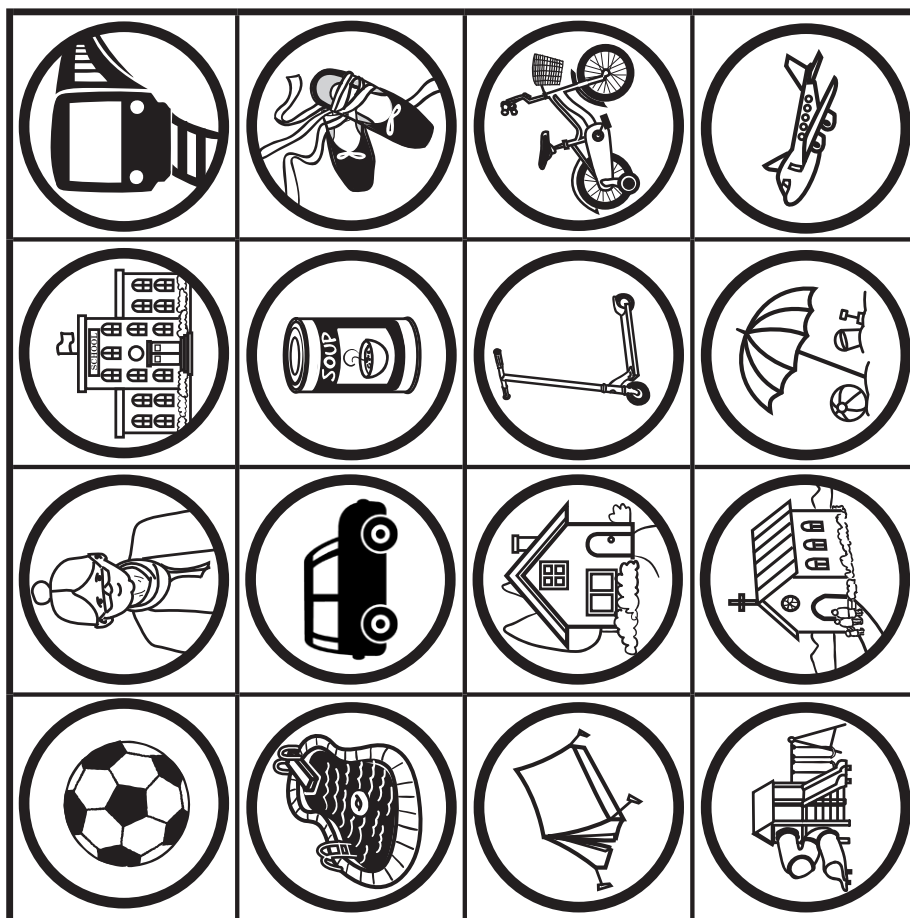
Children line up to meet their parents. Hand them a “Walk It All Week” take-home page and lead them into church.



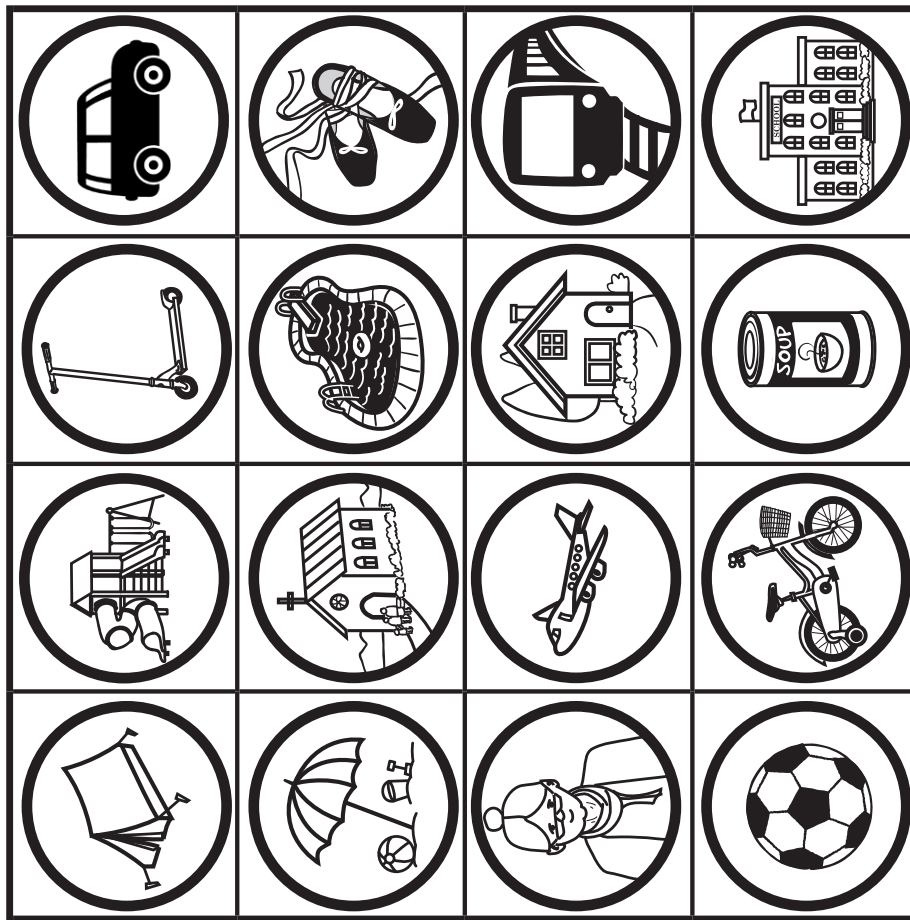
Your World



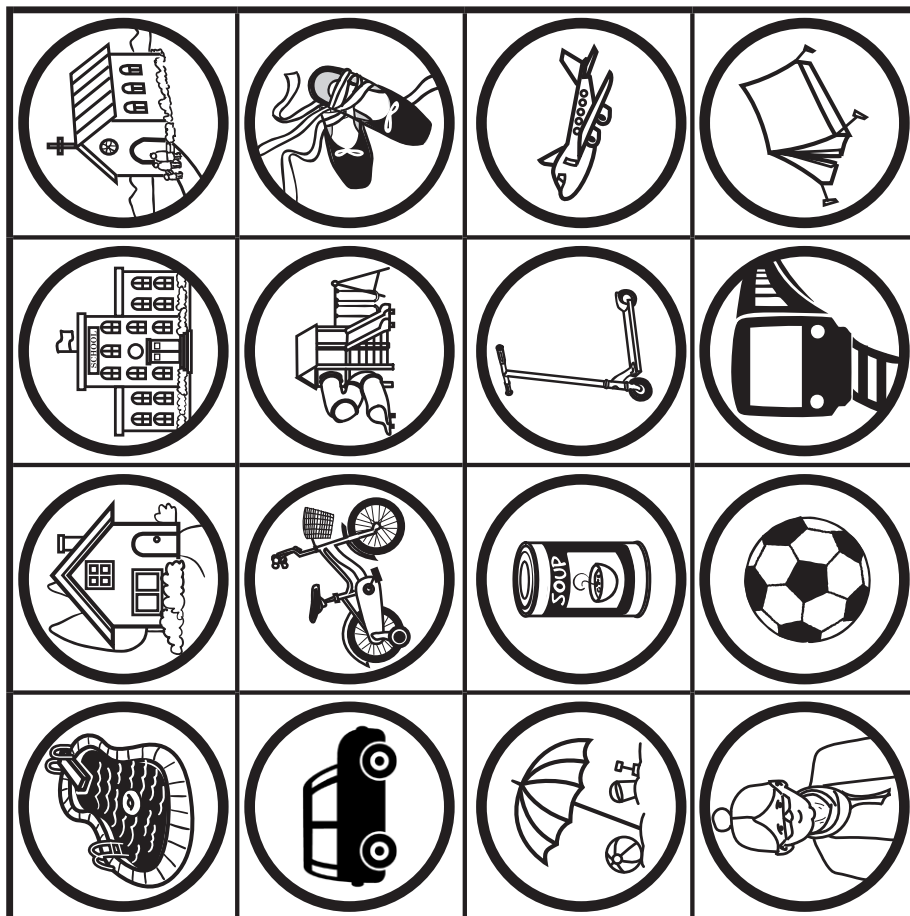
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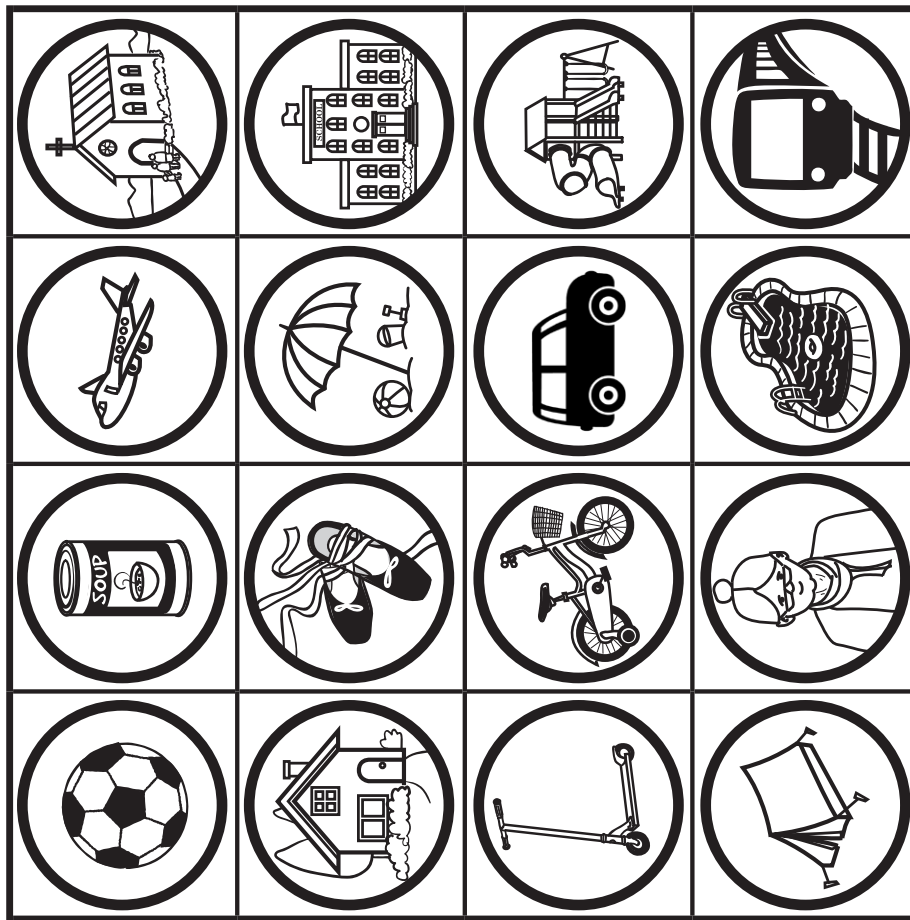
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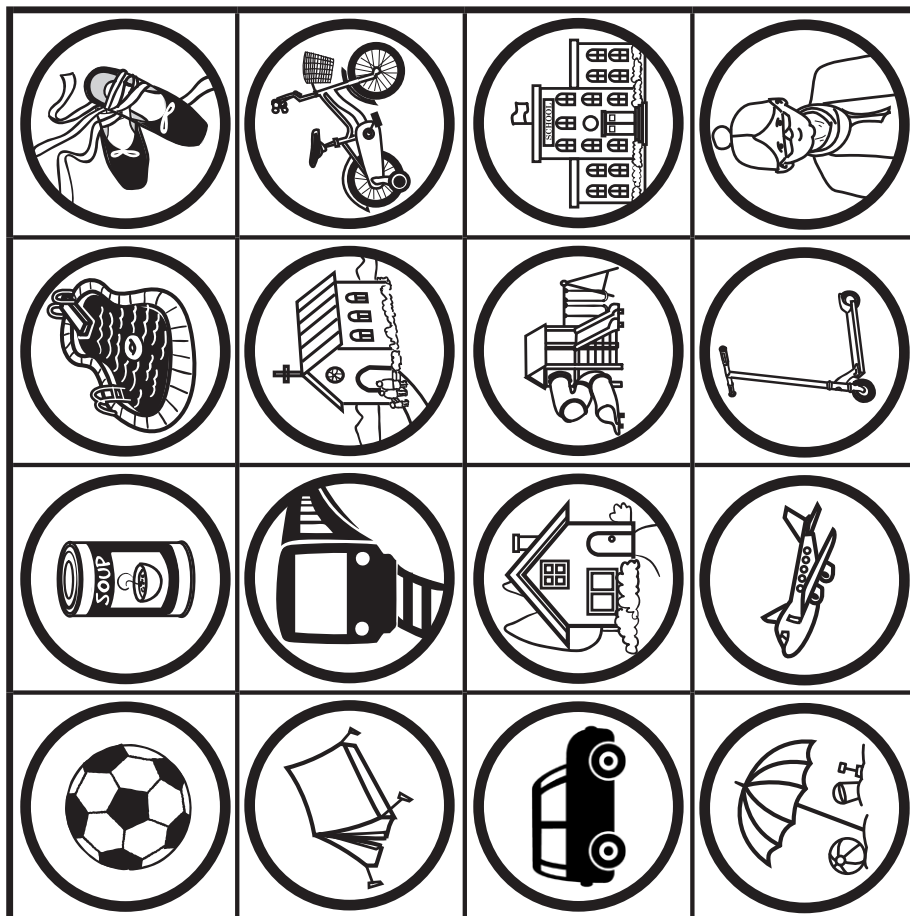
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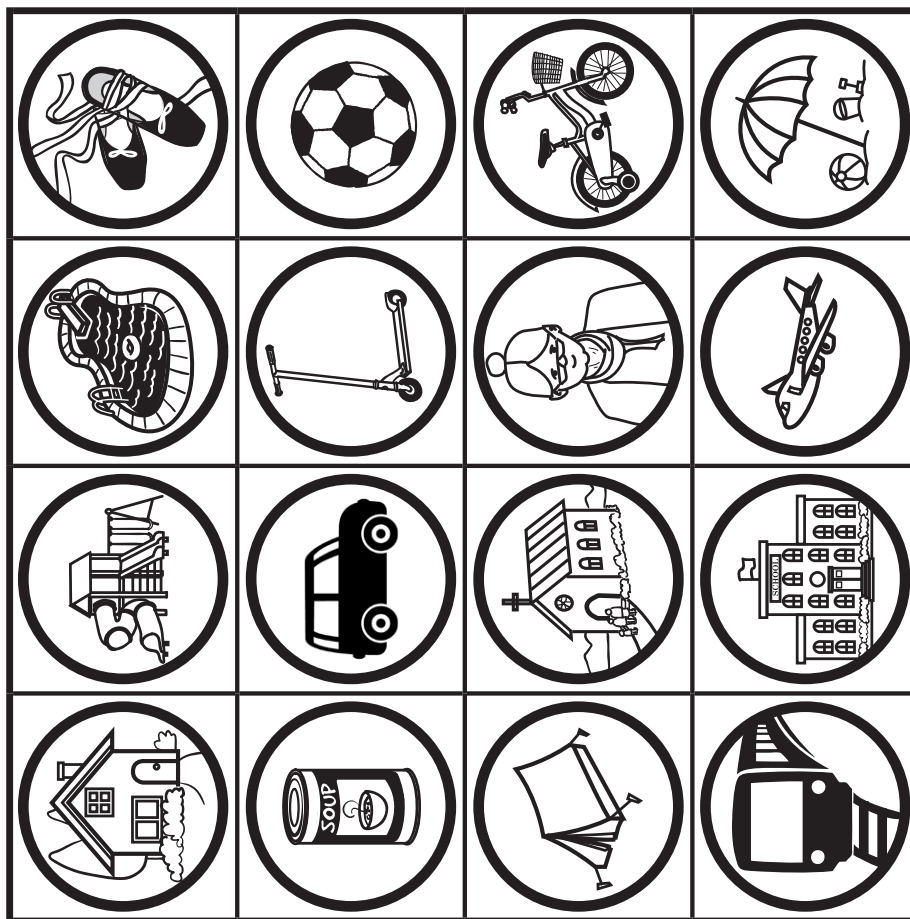
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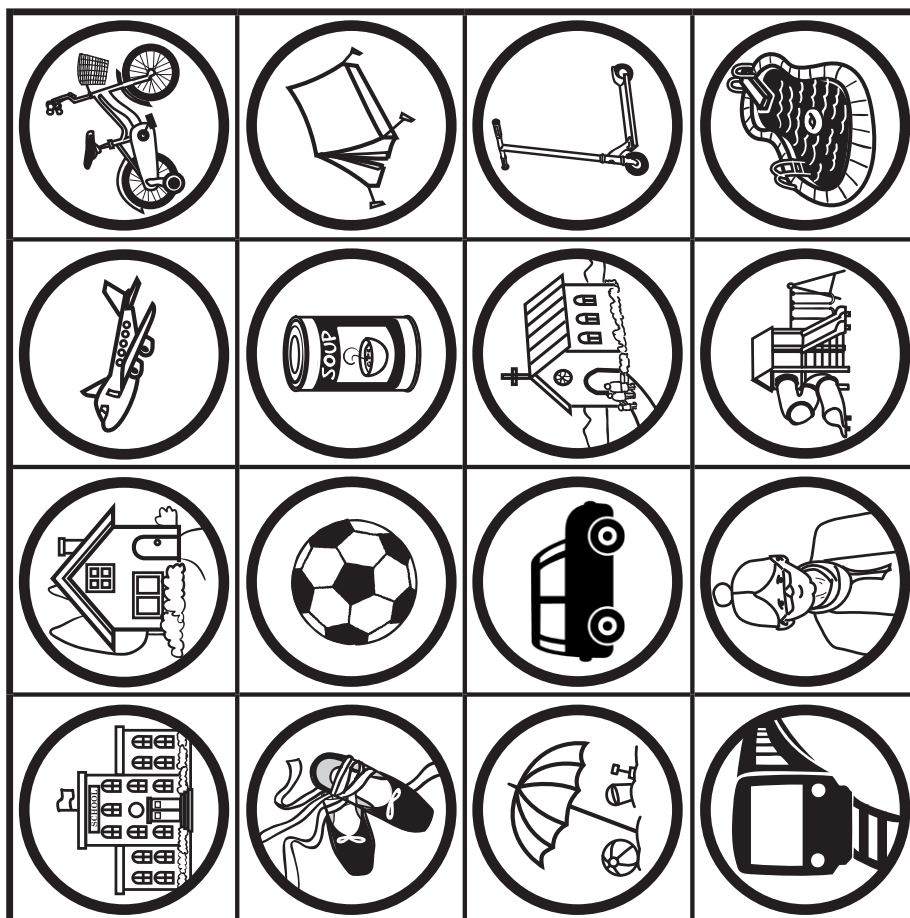
Your World



Your World



Your World



MAKING DISCIPLES

Making disciples means _____ people how to be more like _____.

Question:

How can you show people how to be more like Jesus?

1. By making _____.
2. By talking to _____.
3. By _____ people everywhere.

MAKING DISCIPLES

Making disciples means _____ people how to be more like _____.

Question:

How can you show people how to be more like Jesus?

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MAKING DISCIPLES

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2. By talking to _____.
3. By _____ people everywhere.



WEEK 1

Walk It All Week

HEARTS
ALIVE

The Great Commission

○ **Scripture:** Matthew 28:16–20

○ **Big Idea:** When Jesus ascended to heaven, he left us a job to do! He wants us to tell others about him. He promises to always be with us.

○ **Memory Verse:** “Go and make disciples of all nations.” Matthew 28:19a

TableTALK

💬 **At dinner, ask your parents about a time they served in some way. Maybe they served at church in Sunday school or during the service. Maybe they served in your community. How did they get ready for this job of service? How is your family preparing for Jesus to return? How are you serving him now?**

Remember

A disciple is someone who follows someone else's teachings to become more like that person. When Jesus called his followers “disciples,” it meant that he wanted them to be more than just students who listened to his words. He wanted them to give their lives to the task of becoming more like him. Jesus still wants this from us today. After he was resurrected, before he returned to heaven, Jesus gave his disciples specific instructions on what to do next. We call those instructions the “Great Commission.” Jesus told his disciples to go all over the world, teaching others about him in order to make more disciples. What an exciting job!

Try This

Encourage your family members to keep a list this week of who shows them love and how. Be specific or draw a picture. How do you show love to others? Remember to learn from others AND be a role model.

ACTION

As a family, work together to memorize the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20):

[Jesus] said, “All _____ in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must _____ and make _____ of all nations. _____ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to _____ everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am _____ with you, to the very _____.”

Matthew 28:18–20: [Jesus] said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”