**1. Motivate**

When was the last time you felt like you were on a mission to find something?

* lost keys
* shopping for the perfect gift for a family member
* trying to find an address without the GPS

A video introduction is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_zjwylxc7> If you have no Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/3mzw8kfj>

* online shopping for a tool
* one of the kids got lost
* can’t find my phone
* where is the TV remote?
* the recipe for that lasagna dish Mom used to make
* I know we have all-spice somewhere in this cupboard
* looking for information about great-great-grandparents
* looking for a specific verse in the Bible
* lost earring

**2. Transition**

God has sent us on a mission.

* God sends us to tell others about Jesus.
* We are on mission with Jesus to share Good News that changes lives.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Christ’s Commission

Listen for Christ’s challenge to His disciples.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What did Jesus say about Himself?

* I have all authority
* authority in heaven
* authority in earth

What does it mean to us that Jesus has “all authority”?

* supreme and independent power or authority
* rightful status, independence, or prerogative
* the power to determine, adjudicate, or otherwise settle issues or disputes;
* Jesus has the moral and legal power to make and enforce the law;
* He is sovereign … He does as He pleases to do … and has the power to accomplish it
* And He pleases to accomplish the spread of the Gospel through *us*

What activities were the disciples to be involved in?

* go and make disciples
* go to all nations (people groups)
* baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit
* teach them to obey Jesus teachings/commands

What does it mean to "make disciples"?

* not only do we lead people to a salvation experience
* we also lead them to a deeper experience with God
* they must learn that salvation will bring about obedience to God’s Words (not the other way around)
* they learn to read and apply God’s Truth to their lives
* they give a public witness to their salvation – baptism
* they learn to perpetuate the process … reaching out to unbelievers around them and sharing the Good News

To whom was Jesus speaking when He first spoke these words?

* to the disciples
* probably other followers also

Why is the commission transferable to other believers through the ages?

* people still need Jesus
* He talks about His presence to the “very end of the age”
* we’re still in that time period
* each generation has the call, the commission to reach their own population
* the process of sharing the Gospel goes on and on

Note: The “go” is an imperatival participle in the original Greek.

* As a participle it could be translated, “as you are going.”
* as you go about life, remember your mission; remember you task
* because it is tied to the imperative, it is translated much stronger. We are commanded to “go” into all the world, every nation.

How can knowing that Jesus is always with us make a difference “as we are going”?

* assurance
* protection
* empowerment
* backed by the authority of Jesus

3.2 Tell of Christ’s Work in Our Lives

Listen for what is new.

2 Corinthians 5:16-19 (NIV) So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

What is the “worldly point of view” Paul mentions?

* unaware of who Jesus is
* uncaring about spiritual things
* unaware of our own sinful condition
* unbelieving in who Jesus is
* like Saul of Tarsus (Paul), may be working against God

What did God do through Christ?

* reconcile us to Himself
* make it possible that we will no longer be God’s enemies
* re-unite us sinners to a personal relationship with a holy, righteous God
* God no longer counts our sins against us
* we are a new creation
* old attitudes and actions are gone
* new attitudes and actions replace them

In what ways does God change our lives, make us a new “creation”?

* release us from bad habits that had enslaved us
* new motivation
* new love for others, less of self
* change the way we talk, act, even dress
* empower us to serve Him
* God’s indwelling Holy Spirit produces the Fruit of the Spirit … love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control

To what responsibility have we been appointed on behalf of Christ?

* not only have we been reconciled with God
* we are appointed to the task of bringing others into that same status
* we are “ministers of reconciliation”
* we are to replicate the relation we have with God in the lives of others
* they in turn are to do the same

How can you personally be involved in the ministry of reconciliation?

* learn how to share your faith
* join with others in witnessing teams
* ask God to open doors of opportunity to share your faith
* ask God for sensitivity to people around you who need to hear that God loves them and wants to have a personal relationship with Him

3.3 Ambassadors for Christ

Listen for the role to which we are appointed.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (NIV) We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

What appeal was part of Paul’s message to the Corinthians?

* be reconciled to God – He has made it possible
* Jesus had no sin
* but He died in our place
* He rose from the dead to give us new life
* we can be considered righteous, justified before God
* God looks at us as righteous, based on what Christ accomplished

To what position have we been appointed in relation to sharing the message of reconciliation?

* we are Christ’s ambassadors
* we represent to people around us who God is and what He wants to do for them

What are some ways we act as ambassadors for Christ? How is a Christian an ambassador?

* represent Christ to people
* communicate to them His love, His desire for their salvation
* encourage them to receive God’s gift of salvation
* disciple them

The lyrics of a Gospel song declare that believers are the only “Jesus” that some will ever see. What kinds of things in the life of a believer would keep others from seeing Jesus in their lives?

* anger
* intolerance
* lack of love and compassion
* selfishness
* inability to control your own life (personal habits)
* inappropriate language
* when we shade the truth, otherwise known as cheating, lying, dishonesty

What steps can we take so people will be attracted to Jesus more clearly, so we are better ambassadors?

* confess, repent of sins
* keep your relationship with Christ current
* receive power of God's Spirit to live above these temptations
* Ask God to give us His love and compassion
* pray that you will be a clear “channel” through which the love of Christ can flow
* be reading and meditating daily on God’s Word

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Thank Him.

* Thank God for His authority
* Express thanks for the commission He’s entrusted to you to represent Him and share His good news.

Trust Him.

* We can overcome fears by giving them over to God.
* If you’re challenged with sharing Jesus with others, pray and trust God to reveal and heal these areas.
* Acknowledge and write down any fears, concerns, or needs you want Him to help you overcome.
* Pray and trust Him to move.

Tell of His love.

* As you meet people during the week, be bold.
* Ask, “Has anyone told you Jesus loves you?”
* Tell them, “He does, and I just wanted to let you know.”

Crossword

Clues and words taken from Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NIV)

Help and other activities found at <https://tinyurl.com/3mzw8kfj>

… and that’s how you can have peace with God!

