

# STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



## Week Thirty Three - Great Commission

### **A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*This week's text is a very familiar passage for our church, but it is such an important one. Jesus commissions his followers to live in a new identity and to invite others into his way of living. Pray for the kids to see what this life with Jesus offers and to grow in excitement over it.*

- **Big Idea:** Jesus has invited us into new life — and he wants us to invite others in!

### **Starter**

- **Evidences of Grace**

*Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.*

- **Take-Over Tag**

*Play a little game of tag, if you have room, with a slight twist. The teacher will start off being it, then when the first kid is tagged they join the teacher in tagging others. Each person tags switches from running away to tagging others.*

*Likewise, Jesus transforms us from running from God to inviting others to follow Him.*

### **Sing Together**

### Story - from Matthew 28:16-20

After Jesus rose from the grave and conquered death, the chief priests of the Jewish people came to the Roman guards and told them to make up a story that Jesus' disciples came and stole his body. They didn't want the word to get out about what really happened because they didn't want people to follow Jesus anymore, instead of them and their rules.

But Jesus wasn't dead anymore. He was very alive and the women who followed him and came to the grave saw that. Jesus told them to go and tell the eleven disciples who followed Jesus that he was alive, so they ran to tell the men.

So, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, because they were not sure what to believe and doubted he could really be alive.

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge:

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and train people of all nations to follow me. Welcome them into a new identity, baptized (or immersed) in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to practice everything I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."*

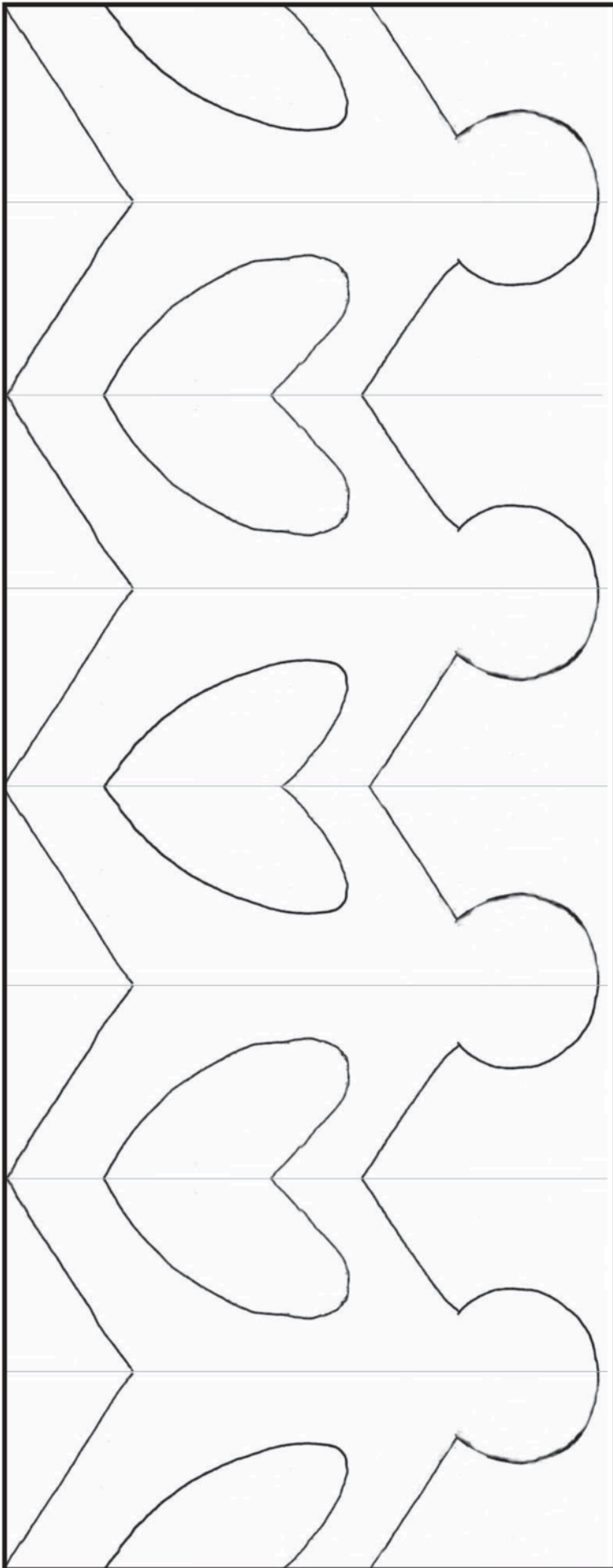
*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- What were the two stories being told (by the priests and guards and by Jesus' followers?)
  - Jesus was dead but his disciples stole his body. He was just a normal man and he's gone now.
  - Jesus was dead but came back to life and everyone who follows him will have true life too.
- Are those stories still being told today?
- How do you think Jesus could say he has all authority in heaven and on earth?
- If Jesus is the one who conquered death and saves us, why did he want his followers to have the job of going to train and baptize people?
- What does it mean to be immersed into a new identity in the Father, Son, and Spirit?
- Why is it good news that Jesus is with us until the end of the age?

## Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**  
God, help us to live how Jesus called us to, and to invite others to live this way too. In the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit. Amen.
- **Craft:**
  - Use the attached paper doll chain to show how God multiplies His people as we share the good news of Jesus.
- **BLESS Activity:** *\*For kids to do during the week\**  
*Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.*

This week, focus on the **Speak** rhythm. Who can you share with about Jesus this week? Pray and ask the Spirit to guide you and give you the courage to share.



- 1) Cut out the bold rectangle
- 2) Then fold all the lighter gray lines
- 3) Then cut out the people, while keeping them connected

*When they are folded up it looks like one person, but when you unfold them they multiply into more. When we partner with Jesus to share his good news, God multiplies His people!*