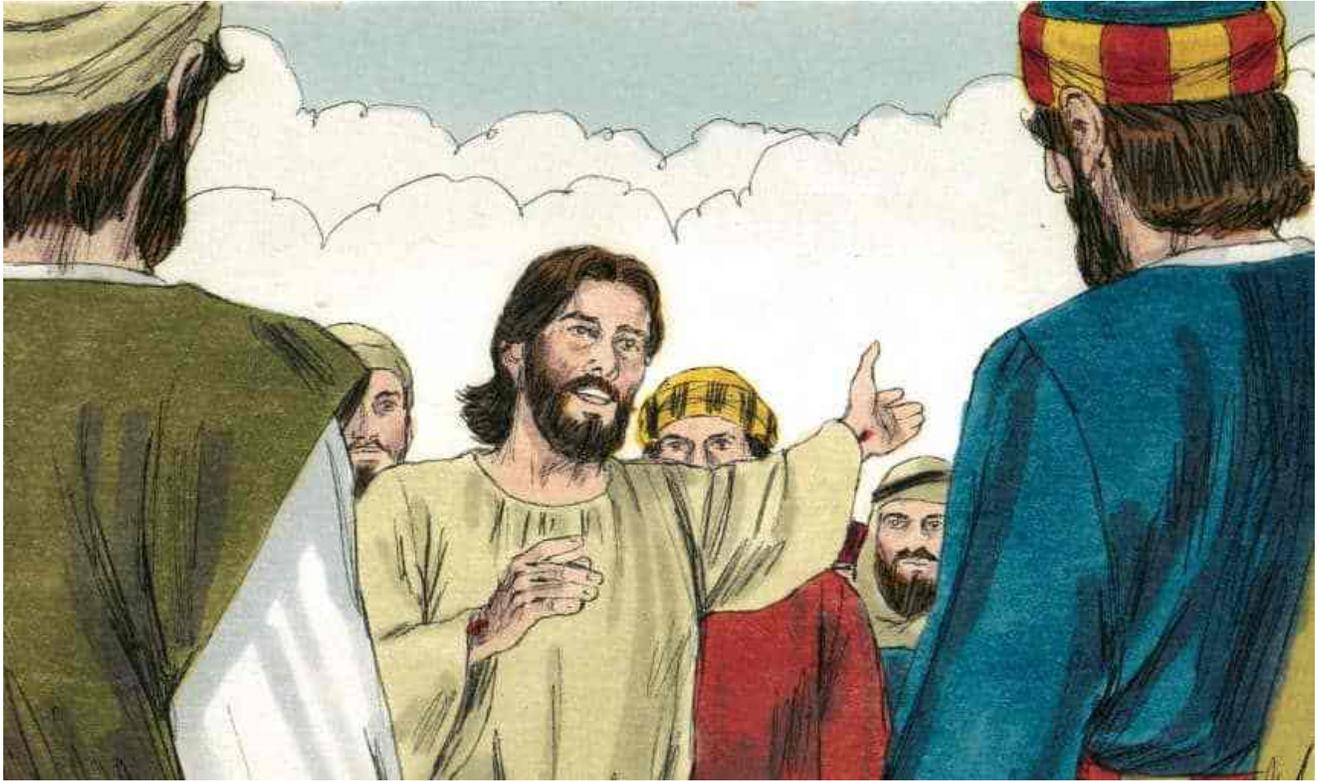


"The Great Commission" Bible Lesson

 ministry-to-children.com/the-great-commission-lesson

March 31,
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The Great Commission is important because it serves as a guide for Christians who do not know what to do with their lives. As Jesus is ascending into Heaven he reminds his disciples that they must be His witness in all the earth. They must spread the good news of Jesus' resurrection and offer of salvation to everyone who will listen. They must share this news with people in their hometowns, their country and in other countries. This work is still not complete and so we must carry on with the Great Commission and continue to share the good news of the salvation that Jesus gives us to everyone who will listen.

Lesson Title: The Great Commission

Bible Reference: Acts 1:6-11

Target Age Group: Preschool to Elementary

Learning Context: Sunday School

Target Time Frame: 45 minutes

Focus Verse: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

Learning Aim:

1. Jesus gave all Christians a big command and it is called the Great Commission.
2. The Great Commission says that the Holy Spirit will help us.
3. The Great Commission says that we are to continue sharing the good news until everyone hears it.

Basic Supply List:

1. Bible
2. Paper
3. Crayons/colored pencils
4. Green and blue tissue paper
5. Paper plates
6. A hole puncher
7. Glue
8. Ribbon
9. Masking tape
10. Cotton Balls
11. Picture of Jesus
12. Blindfold

Note: In the teaching plan below the words in *italics* are meant to be read aloud. The regular text is simply directions for the teacher.

>>> Basic Teaching Plan <<<<

Introduction: Begin by greeting each student to class and asking them to share one really good thing that happened to them this week. Once every child has had a chance to share say, *Whenever we have good news, we want to share it. The ultimate good news is that Jesus is alive and has made a way for us to live eternally with Him.*

Biblical Evidence: Read Acts 1:6-11. Say, *This story takes place after Jesus has died on the cross and then come back to life. He has spent time with his disciples teaching them about who He truly is. The disciples are wondering when Jesus will return to them. He tells them not to worry about that but to just focus on telling others that He has risen from the dead and that they can have salvation. He tells the disciples that they cannot successful tell others about Him on their own, but that the Holy Spirit will be with them wherever they go. He also tells them that they must tell everyone about Jesus, whether they live next door to you or across an ocean. Then, miraculously Jesus is taken away to Heaven in a cloud. When the disciples stay there watching Jesus disappear they are reminded that they have a lot of work to do and need to get busy!*

Our Job: Say, *It has been 2,000 years since this story took place, but the work is still not complete. Therefore we must keep telling others about Jesus and how He died on the Cross for our sins. This is called the Great Commission and it means that we all have the job of telling others about Jesus.* Give each child some paper and crayons and have them draw a newspaper. Explain that a newspaper is where people can write news that they want everyone to know. When they have finished making their newspapers, have the kids act out

giving their newspaper to someone and telling that person about Jesus. Encourage them to think of a person to whom they can tell the good news this week.

World Craft: Remind the class that Jesus has commanded us to share the good news with everyone in the world. This craft will symbolize telling the people that live near to them and the people that live far away from them. Write the Bible verse at the top of a paper plate. Use a hole puncher to make a hole at the top of the paper plate. Tie a ribbon to the top of the paper plate so that the kids can take it home and hang it up like a mobile. Have them draw a picture of their neighborhood on the side of the plate with the verse. Then turn the plate over and cover the back with glue. Have the kids cover the glue with green and blue pieces of tissue paper to symbolize the earth.

Jesus in the Cloud Game: This game is like pin the tail on the donkey, except you use a picture of Jesus and cotton balls with tape on them. First, put a picture of Jesus on the wall at your students' eye level. Blindfold them and hand them a cotton ball with masking tape on one side of it. They will walk towards the wall and try to hide Jesus in the cloud.

Whoever's cloud is the closest wins.

Closing: Close the lesson by asking them what the Great Commission is. Reinforce the idea that the Great Commission is for all Christians to tell others about Jesus. Ask them who they need to tell about Jesus. Remind them that they need to tell everyone about Jesus because He is the only way to have salvation and forgiveness from their sins. Tell the class that they do not have to be afraid to tell others about Jesus, because the Holy Spirit will go with them always. Finally, close the lesson in prayer.

Image courtesy of [Sweet Publishing](#) and [Distant Shores Media](#)

Group Games and Lesson Introduction

In the Great Commission, we are sent out to share our faith with one another and encourage others to know and love Christ. Spark the interest and honor the theme of that Great Commandment, as you prepare students to study it (note: most of these elements could be used at home or in a larger group setting). Here are some potential activities to enjoy.

How big is the world? Ask students to think of as many countries and languages as they can. How many are there? Which is the largest? Provide some facts for things they may not know, and explain that Jesus sent the disciples to spread Christianity to ALL the world!

- Look at a globe, and discuss features of our great planet. What might it mean to go into ALL the world? What do you know about the work of a missionary?
- Play “red light/green light” in honor of GOING into the world.
- Sending...the Commission has to do with a sending into the world. Celebrate this by sending some letters or cards of your own! Discuss types of mail and why the postal service is important. We get to be “mail men” of a sort, too!
- Commissioning...a sending! Brainstorm some other people or jobs that get “sent.” People like pastors, nurses, military officers, and many others are officially designated and sent into the world to do their jobs. We get to do that as Christians!
- What does a secret agent do? We get to be agents of God’s will! Think of what a special forces team or secret agents do...when we go out as Christians, our lives can be just as exciting. What are some “sneaky” methods of serving others not for our own credit, but for letting someone else feel loved?
- Does your church support a missionary? Learn about them, and find special ways to pray for and support them.

Remind children that Jesus has given us all an important job to spread the good news of Jesus to everyone. We are going to discuss the importance of this God-given commandment. Jesus Didn’t just ask the disciples to tell the world of Him if they felt like it...He wants everyone to be part of the Great Commission!

Ask: Who can you think of that needs to hear some good news? If you had good news, who might be the first person you’d share it with?



“Go Make Disciples” Craft Ideas based on the Great Commission

The Great Commission is something we should not take lightly, as Christians. It is not a mere suggestion, but a commandment and a blessing. It is a beautiful thing to share with children, and to remind them of their role in the spreading of the Gospel. These simple crafts are meant to serve as reminders of the part we are called to play in God’s work on Earth.

Bible Verses or Craft Captions to Consider... (Main Text: Matthew 28:16-20)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” -Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus Commands it... Spread the Good News!

GO Make Disciples!

Tell the World About God’s Love!

Share the Love of Christ...Go Make Disciples!

More Teaching ideas about the Great Commission

- See our [video playlist of these crafts and lesson ideas](#).
- See all our [resources based on the Great Commission](#)
- Compare this full [Sunday School lesson on the Matthew 28:16-20](#)



Craft one: "Commission Globe"

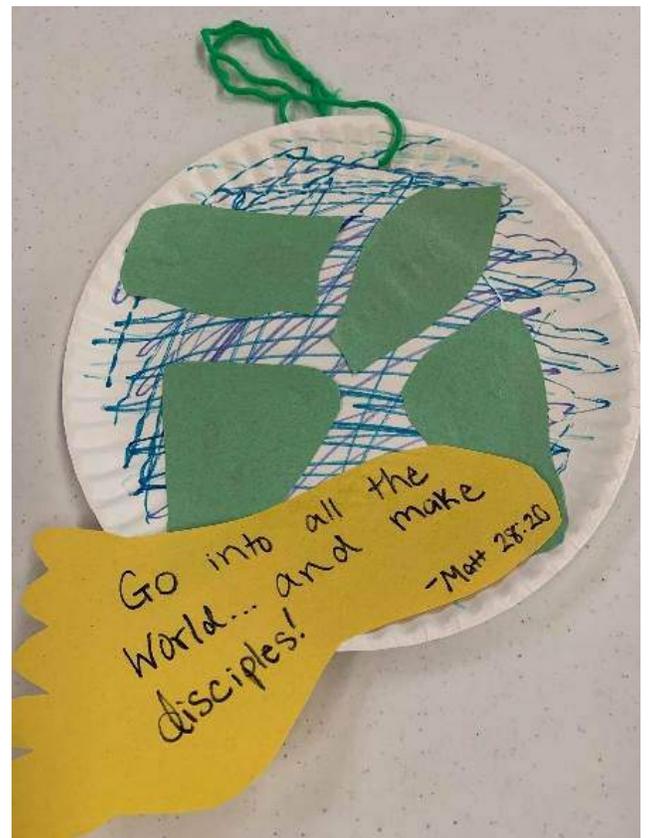
You will need:

- Construction paper or card stock
- Markers, stickers, or other decorating materials
- Tape, glue, or staples
- Scissors
- Paper plates
- Yarn or pipe cleaners



Procedure:

1. Decorate the plate to look like a globe, beginning with blue marker, crayon, or paint.
2. Add green "land" with cut paper or additional paint. Sprinkle stickers or glitter for additional decoration, if desired.
3. Trace a foot on a sheet of paper. Cut and add a verse caption.
4. Attach the foot to the globe with tape, glue, string, or staple.
5. Place a string or pipe cleaner through the plate, if hanging is desired.



Craft Two: “Gospel Megaphone”

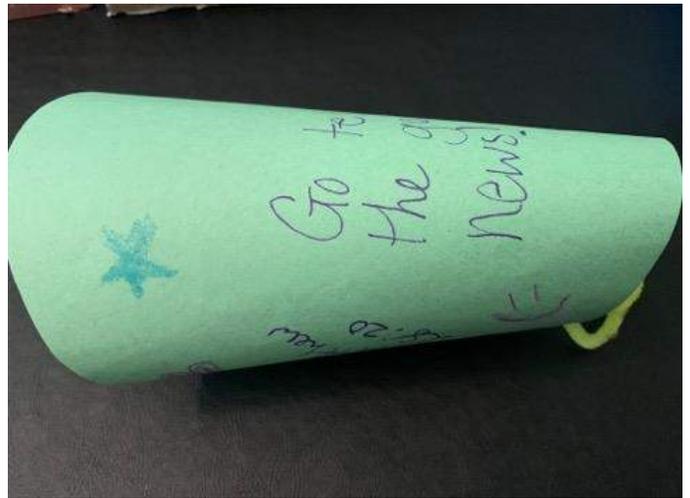
You will need:

- Cups (foam or plastic)
- Paper (construction)
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or decorative supplies
- Staples, glue, or tape



Procedure:

1. If using a cup for extra support and volume (recommended but not required), cut the bottom out of the cup to provide a space to speak through.
2. Cut construction paper somewhat, creating a slight arc and almost triangular shape on one end.
3. Decorate the paper, adding stickers if desired, and a verse.
4. Carefully roll the paper around the cup, attaching with glue, tape, or staples.
5. Attach a handle with a stick, pipe cleaner, or paper edges. Shout the good news for all to hear!



Craft Three: “GO Make Disciples Signal”

You will need:

- Toilet paper or paper towel tubes
- Construction paper (red, yellow, green, and black)
- Scissors
- Markers or decorative supplies
- Glue, stapler, and/or tape
- String or pipe cleaner (if hanging is desired)



Procedure:

1. Staple or tape three toilet paper tubes together, stacking one on top of the other.
2. Cut circles out of red, green, and yellow paper. Write on these, if desired.
3. Tape the paper circles over the holes of the tubes, creating a signal light appearance.
4. Cover the tubes with black paper if desired, to create a more “stoplight”-like effect.
5. Attach a string or pipe cleaner to hang.
Additionally, this craft could be made into a coin collection bank of sorts, by cutting slits in the side or top of the signal light.





These craft ideas were prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO.

She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May

2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

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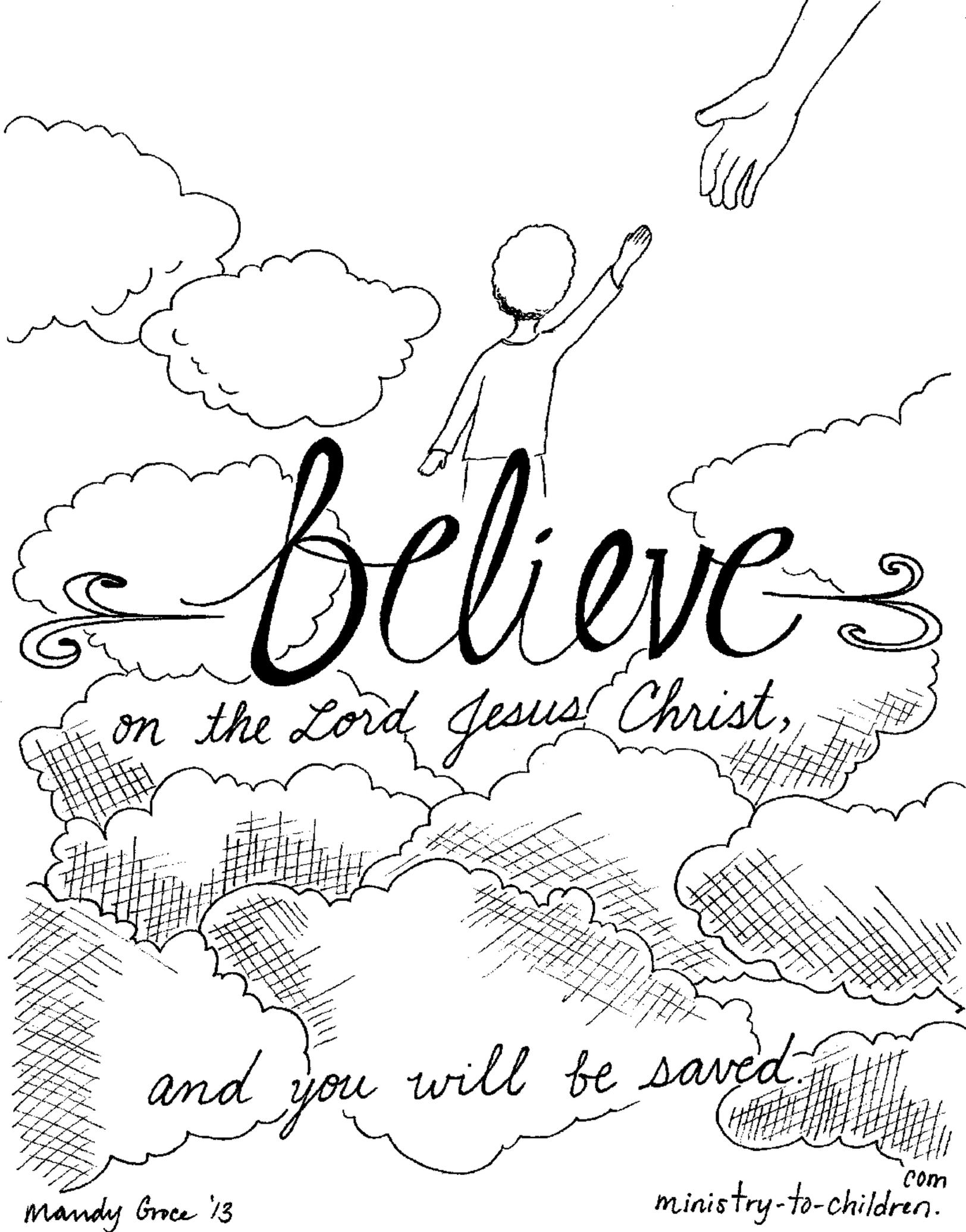
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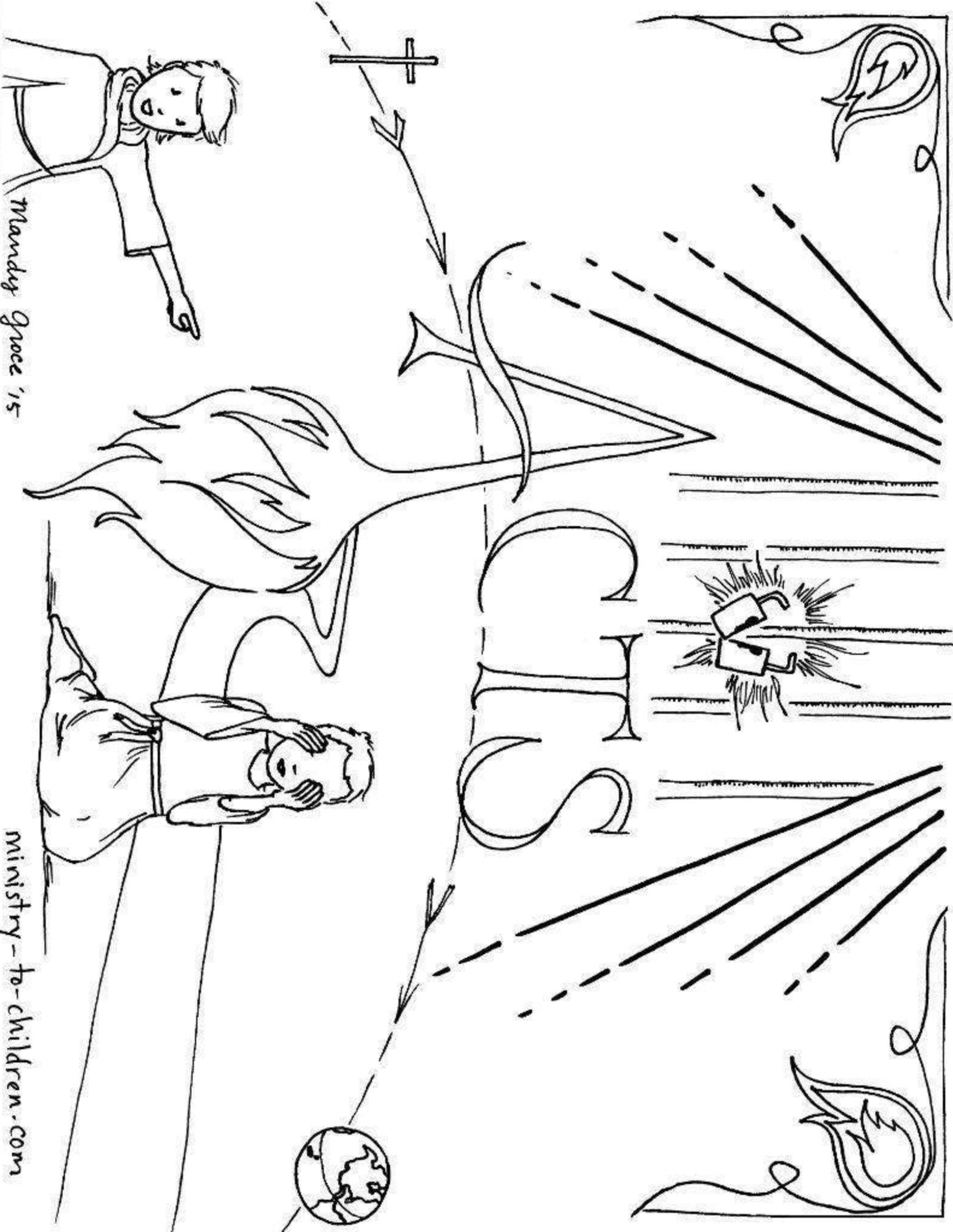
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on the Lord Jesus Christ,

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