

Elem456 Small Group Week 5 (November 29, 2020)

Memory Verse: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall live.'" John 11:25 (ESV)

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

Bible Story:

After Jesus was crucified on the cross, a rich man named Joseph from Arimathea (27:57) took Jesus' body and buried him in a tomb. The Pharisees were afraid Jesus' disciples would steal His body, so they appointed a guard to keep watch at the tomb. Three days after the death of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James went to the tomb where Jesus' body was. When they got to the tomb, a huge earthquake erupted as an angel of God moved the stone at the tomb's entrance. The angel tells both Marys that Jesus has risen from the dead and that Jesus was going to meet them at Galilee. The angel then commands the Marys to tell all the disciples about Jesus' resurrection. Shortly after, the 11 disciples went to the mountain in Galilee and saw the risen Jesus. Jesus, who was getting ready to ascend to heaven, gathers the disciples and gives His final instructions: make disciples of all nations!

Sermon Outline:

- [I] What does it mean to be a disciple?
 - a. A disciple means to be a follower of Jesus Christ
 - b. As a disciple, Jesus Christ is always with us.
- [II] What do we do as a disciple?
 - a. We must hear, trust, and obey the word of God
- [III] How do we make disciples
 - a. Be a disciple of Jesus Christ
 - b. Teach God's Word

[Bottom Line/Main Point]: To make disciples, we must first be a disciple of Jesus Christ

Activity #1 Sermon Review Questions + Discussion Questions:

*You do not have to cover all of the questions! Please pick and choose whatever is best for your small group. Students might be too shy to answer, too reluctant to answer, or eagerly try to answer everything themselves. Please give some time for each student to think and process. Ask guiding questions to help them form their own answers. The goal is critical thinking versus sharing the "right answers"!

Sermon Review Questions (Reading Comp. Type Questions)

- 1.) **How many disciples went to see Jesus? Where did they go to see Him?** A: *11 disciples. They went to the mountain in Galilee to see Jesus (Mt. 28:6)*
- 2.) **What do the disciples do when they see Jesus?** A: *They worshipped him, but some doubted. (Mt. 28:17)*
- 3.) **What does Jesus command his disciples to do?** A: *To go and make disciples, baptize, and teach God's Word (Mt. 28:19-20)*

Discussion Questions

- 1.) **Is there someone that you like to follow/look up to or want to be like?**
(As you ask this question, have students think critically about why they follow/want to be like that certain individual. The point of this question is for the students to get a better picture of what discipleship is, for discipleship = following someone and shaping our lives to be like them. Stress that their answers are a good picture of what discipleship is, except true discipleship is Christ centered.)

Tip 1: Ask students to have their Bible's open!

Tip 2: Please direct students to find and read the corresponding verses if they do not know an answer to one of the sermon review questions. Verses are in green.

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- 2.) **What are ways that you can be a good disciple for Jesus Christ this week?** (They will most likely answer with pray, read the bible, worship God etc. Acknowledge that these answers are all good, but please encourage your students to see that Christian discipleship is holistic—every sphere of life (home, school, extracurricular, etc.) should be touched by our commitment to Jesus.

Ex: Direct them to answers such as, show love to my family and friends, being a good person at school, being honest with my homework and everything that I do, etc)

- 3.) We make disciples by sharing about Jesus. **What are some important details and facts about Jesus that you would share with a non-Christian?** (If your student says he/she does not have any non-Christian friends or peers, then please encourage them to think about what they would/could share. Some important details:

- We were all created to love God and worship Him but cannot because of sin
- All are guilty of sin and cannot make things right with God. The penalty of sin is death
- But God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to save His people by taking our sins upon himself and dying in our place
- Jesus is able to save His people *because* He is *truly* God and *truly* Man (*humanity needed to pay the price = Jesus is truly man. The price needed to be paid was of infinite value = Jesus is truly God)
- Anyone who repents of their sin(s) and believes in Jesus as their Lord and Savior will receive the free gift of salvation

Activity #2: Community Building

“MAKING DISCIPLES: SHARING JESUS”

Activity: Write a letter to a non-believer (non-Christian) and share Jesus with them!

Directions:

1) Continuing on from discussion question #3, brainstorm together as a class some important details and facts about Jesus to share. Make a list.

2) Have each student contribute at least 1 thing (Please encourage students to think about what they would share! More than “right” answers, the goal is to help students be confident.)

3) Rather than simply listing facts, work together as a class to write a winsome letter to a non-believer!

*Try to use as many of the details/facts the students listed.

*Teachers, you can either type it out via Screen Share and/or having students write/type alongside you. Each class will write 1 letter together.

Sample Letter:

Dear _____,

I want you to know that Jesus loves you. No matter what you did, do, or will do, Jesus loves you! Jesus proved His love when he died on the cross for you and me. You see, Jesus did not have to die but he did because of our sins. Sin is when we ignore God and live our lives like we are God. Did you know that the penalty of sin is death and facing God’s wrath? No matter how many good things we do or try to be good people, the truth is we are all sinners. But! Thankfully, Jesus came to take all of our sins and pay the penalty in our place. He was able to do that because Jesus is both God and man. Jesus offers the free gift of salvation for anyone who repents of their sins and believes in Jesus as their Lord and Savior! Jesus is reaching out to you today! Repent and believe in Him!

Sincerely,
Student’s name

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4) Ask students to think of one person they could share Jesus with. Challenge students to share what they wrote about in the letter. Encourage them that they are not alone; the letter was written together with their brothers and sisters in Christ! Close in prayer.

- a. Pray together for the person the students thought of.
- b. Pray that the Lord would give each of the students boldness to share Jesus.