



After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to His disciples over a 40-day period. At one point, He appeared to more than 500 people. During that time, Jesus taught about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3) Some disciples wondered if Jesus was going to restore the kingdom of Israel. (Acts 1:6)

Jesus had a different plan for the disciples. He directed the Eleven to go to a mountain, where He appeared to them again. They worshiped Him, but some still doubted. (Matt. 28:17) On the mountain, Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission. First, Jesus stated that all authority had been given to Him. Before the resurrection, Jesus had authority as God the Son. Through the resurrection, however, the Father gave Jesus far more than even Satan had promised. (Matt. 4:8-9) Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God subjected everything to His beloved Son. (See Heb. 2:5-9.)

Because of Jesus' authority, He commanded His disciples to go into the world and preach the gospel, the good news about Him. The Great Commission is not just for missionaries far from home. All believers are called to share the gospel with others, teach them to obey God's commands, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus finished His commission with a profound promise: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

Talk to your kids about the importance of living out the Great Commission. Because Jesus has authority over all places and all people at all times, we can take the good news about Jesus to all places and all people at all times. God has given us a mission and gives us power through the Holy Spirit to obey this calling.

**The good news about what Jesus has done to rescue us from our sins is too great to keep to ourselves. Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave the disciples a job to do. Jesus wants His followers to teach people everywhere about Jesus so they will trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.**

#### FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
  - Jesus is alive in heaven.
  - Jesus has power over everything.
  - Jesus gave His friends a job to do on earth.
  - Jesus' followers tell people everywhere about Him.
- **Preschool**
  - What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.
  - Jesus gave His friends a mission.
- **Kids**
  - What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.
  - Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission.

#### UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (Preschool: 1 Corinthians 15:4)**