

BIBLE STORY

The Greatest Commandment
and the Great Commission
Matthew 22:34-40; 28:18-20

**"You are no longer
foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's
people and also members of
his household."**
Ephesians 2:19

BIG TRUTH

I AM PART OF GOD'S FAMILY.
Family Values

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

Simon Says

WHAT YOU NEED: None

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids stand up.
- Tell kids that you will be giving them commands in this way- "Simon says (command)". You will also say some commands without saying Simon Says. If they do the command when you don't say Simon Says, they sit down.
- The last kid standing wins.
- Repeat as many rounds as time allows. Have other leaders or kids take turns being "Simon".

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Today we are going to be learning about some commands that Jesus gave his followers.
- Just like you listened really closely to whoever was Simon in our game today, we want to listen very closely to what Jesus tells us to do!

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: This month we are going to be following along with the adults at HDC, learning about what it means to be part of God's family and our HDC church family! This week, we are learning about what the values are in God's family. What are values in your family? (Allow for responses)

When Jesus was on earth, a Pharisee, or a religious leader, asked Jesus what the most important law, or rule for following God was. They called this the Greatest Commandment. What do you think Jesus said? (Allow for response) Then, when Jesus left Earth, he gave his followers a mission, something we call the Great Commission! Do any of you have any ideas of what that might mean? (Allow for responses)

Your challenge when we learn from our Bible story today is to listen for the Greatest Commandment

AFTER THE LESSON: Did you guys catch that? What is the Greatest Commandment? (Allow for responses). That's right! Love God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength!

And what about the Great Commission? (Allow for responses). That's right! We are supposed to make disciples of all nations! That means tell people about Jesus so they can join God's family too!

If this is your first time hearing this, it might be confusing. How can I love God with everything I have?

PRESENT THE GOSPEL:

- **Circle 1-** The Bible tells us that God created us and everything in the world. We were created to know, love, and worship God forever with everything we have! That means we were MADE to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.
- **Sin-** But the very first people, Adam and Eve, chose to do what they thought was best instead of what God said was best. This is called sin. Every person after them has continued to sin.
- **Circle 2-** Sin makes us broken inside. It keeps us from God's plan, and keeps us from having a relationship with Him because we keep choosing to do what we want to do. Brokenness affects the world around us too- our relationships and our communities are all affected by brokenness.
- **Circle 3-** God loves us so much that He didn't want us to be separate from Him! He sent His son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins, which is death and separation from God forever. Jesus died on the cross for us. He didn't stay dead though! He rose from the dead after 3 days. And He saw His followers again! This is when He told them the Great Commission. When we put our trust in Jesus, we get to live with God forever again in His perfect plan in heaven.

When we learn the amazing news that God has made a way for us to have a relationship with Him and live with Him forever, we want to tell everyone that amazing news! Jesus wanted us to share the news about Him with everyone in our life.

3. SMALL GROUPS

1. **Has a coach or a teacher ever given you a challenge? What was it?**
2. **We learned today what Jesus said the greatest commandment is. Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 22:35-40 and read about it together.**
 - o Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.
3. **What do you think it means to love your neighbor as yourself? What keeps you from loving your neighbor as yourself?**
 - o Examples for loving neighbors could include being selfless, choosing to do what a friend wants instead of what you want, praying for friends.
 - o Examples of things that keep us from loving others could be selfishness, being annoyed with others, having strong ideas about what we want to do, etc.

3. SMALL GROUPS

4. **We also learned about the Great Commission. Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 28:16-20 and read about it together.**
5. **Who is someone in your life that you could share the good news of Jesus with?**
 - o Have every kid go around the circle and answer. If they are stuck, encourage them to think through different environments in their life, like school, their home, their team, or their extended family.
6. **Today we talked about the good news of Jesus, that He came to take the punishment of our sin and let us have a relationship with God forever! Does anyone have questions about what it means to follow Jesus?**
 - o If any kids indicate that they are ready to make the decision to follow Jesus, give them an ABC booklet and tell their parents at checkout.

PRAY TOGETHER: God, thank You that You sent Jesus to die in our place. Give us courage this week to tell the people in our oikos about You. Help us to love You with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We love You! Amen.

ACTIVITY

Great Commission Investigation

WHAT YOU NEED: Great Commission worksheet, pens or pencils, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Great Commission worksheet.
- Tell them that they are going to be detectives and find times in the Bible that Jesus' followers fulfilled the Great Commission after he went back to heaven.
- Split kids into 6 groups. Assign each group a square. Have them look up the passage listed and fill in the box.
- Once everyone is done, kids will share with the rest of the group. Everyone can fill in their sheet as the other groups share.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- We can learn from the heroes of the Bible to see how they fulfilled the Great Commission!
- Do any of these give you any ideas about how you can tell people in your life about Jesus?

BIBLE STORY

Serve One Another
Galatians 6:9-10; Romans 12:3-8

**"You are no longer
foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's
people and also members of
his household."
Ephesians 2:19**

BIG TRUTH

I AM PART OF GOD'S FAMILY.
Family Chores

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

Serve Each Other Water

WHAT YOU NEED: Dixie cups, pitchers, water, trays

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids split into 4 even-sized teams. Each team will have a tray where all the kids are lined up.
- On the other end of the room, there will be a pitcher of water and stacks of Dixie cups.
- The first kid in line will run to their team's pitcher on the other side of the room. They will fill a dixie cup about half-way with water and place it on their tray. They will take the tray with the cup of water back to their team. The next kid in line will drink the water and then take the empty tray back to their team's pitcher and repeat.
- Once the first kid to go has drank their cup of water, their team is done.
- The first team to finish wins!

WHAT YOU SAY:

- That game was so fun and tricky! In that game, all of you served each other. You also were served!
- Sometimes, we worry so much about our own needs being met that we forget to serve others. Today we are going to be learning that we are called to serve each other in God's family!

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: This month we are going to be following along with the adults at HDC, learning about what it means to be part of God's family and our HDC church family! This week, we are learning about family chores in God's family. How many of you have chores at home? What are they? (Allow for responses)

When we talk about chores in God's family or our church family, we don't really mean taking out the trash or picking up your bedroom. Our chore in God's family is to serve each other! God says that there are different ways that we can serve each other, based on the gifts he has given us. And that we should serve each other joyfully! Listen in our Bible story to hear the different ways that we can serve each other.

AFTER THE LESSON: What are the different gifts, or ways of serving, that you heard in our Bible story? (Allow responses) That's right! We heard prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy. And there are even more gifts that aren't listed there!

How many of you have heard of spiritual gifts before? These are gifts that God gives us when we accept Jesus into our hearts that help us to serve Him and the church! He gives us all different gifts, which is super cool! Today in small group time, you are going to be doing an assessment to see what your spiritual gifts are and how God might want to use them to serve the church family!

3. SMALL GROUPS

1. **Think of a time in your life that someone served you. What did they do? How did it make you feel?**
2. **God wants us to serve ALWAYS, not just some of the time! Let's open our Bibles to Galatians 6:9-10 and read it together.**
 - o Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.
3. **When are times that it is easy for you to serve others? When are times that it is hard for you to serve others?**
4. **We also learned that God created us to work together to serve. Let's open our Bibles to Romans 12:4-5 and read about it together.**
5. **Why do you think God made us to work together to serve the church? Why didn't he just give all of us all of the gifts so we could do everything ourselves?**
6. **What are ways that you can serve the church right now?**
 - o Answers may include kids worship team, serving in kids ministry, greeting, helping to clean up, being welcoming to kids coming to church for the first time

PRAY TOGETHER: God, thank you for choosing to use us to serve one another. Help us to see the ways that you have gifted us to serve and help us to serve each other generously. We love you. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

WHAT YOU NEED: Spiritual Gifts inventory, score sheet, pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a spiritual gifts inventory.
- Explain that when we accept Jesus and the Holy Spirit comes to live in us, the Spirit gives us gifts to help serve others.
- Some kids may feel like they already know what their gifts are. Other kids might not be sure.
- They will take the spiritual gifts test by reading the statement and responding to it with the 1-5 scale.
 - o 1-Never, 2-Almost Never, 3-Sometimes, 4-Most of the Time, 5-Always
- Once they have completed the Spiritual Gifts test, they will use the score sheet to plug in their numbers.
- They will then add the rows up. Whatever their highest couple scores are show their spiritual gifts.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- This might be the first time some of you have done this! It is cool to see all the different ways that God has gifted you!
- Remember, we have these gifts to serve others. What is a way you could serve others with your gifts?

BIBLE STORY

Give Cheerfully
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

**"You are no longer
foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's
people and also members of
his household."
Ephesians 2:19**

BIG TRUTH

I AM PART OF GOD'S FAMILY.
Family Sharing

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

Give It Away

WHAT YOU NEED: small candies, cup, prepared slips

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids split into groups.
- Have a leader go with each group. Give each leader one candy for everyone in their group and a cup with the prepared slips.
- The leader will give one kid a piece of candy and have them draw a paper from the cup.
- The paper will direct the kid to give their candy to someone else.
- Once they have given their candy, have the next kid in the circle go.
- Once everyone has a piece of candy, ask the following questions to your group.
 - o Was it hard to pick someone to give to?
 - o Did it feel good to give a treat away?
 - o In this game, everyone gets a treat. Do you think it would be hard to give it away if you didn't know if you were going to get one?

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: This month we are going to be following along with the adults at HDC, learning about what it means to be part of God's family and our HDC church family! This week, we are learning about sharing and generosity! How many of you have been told to share before? What is the hardest thing for you to share?

Today we are going to learn that God calls us to give with a cheerful heart. Sometimes when we give, we might be worried that we won't be taken care of or get what we need. We are learning today that God calls us to give and that he will abundantly take care of us!

AFTER THE LESSON: When we give generously, we are living the way that God designed us to live! Everything we have is from Him. When we remember that, we are able to give freely and know that He will take care of us.

Our passage today said that we can point other people to Jesus when we give, and show our thanks to God through giving! There may be times that we don't want to give- because it is inconvenient, or because we are selfish. But our generosity points people back to Jesus and changes our hearts, too!

3. SMALL GROUPS

1. **What is a time in your life that someone was generous toward you?**
2. **God cares about our hearts when we give. Let's open our Bibles to 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 and read it together.**
 - o Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.
3. **Why do you think God cares about our hearts when we give? Why does that matter to Him?**
4. **What is one way it is easy for you to be generous?**
 - o This does not just need to be financial. It can also be with time or effort.
5. **What is one way it is hard for you to be generous?**
6. **How could you bless someone in your Oikos (friends and family) with generosity this week?**

PRAY TOGETHER: God, You have loved us so generously, and we are thankful. Thank You for loving us when we have done nothing to earn it. Please help us to see how we can be generous to the people around us this week, and help us to glorify You. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Generosity Board Game

WHAT YOU NEED: Generosity Board game, cards, pieces

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids split into 4 teams. Assign each team a color and a game piece.
- Have the kids take turns taking a card from the stack. They will read the scenario on the card out loud, then see how many spaces to move forward or back.
- Have the kids continue to take turns until one team gets to the end.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Some of the scenarios on the cards might have happened to you before!
- Some of the people on the cards didn't make generous choices.
- You have the opportunity this week to choose to be generous!

BIBLE STORY

Unity in God's Family
Ephesians 2:11-22; John 17:20-23

**"You are no longer
foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's
people and also members of
his household."
Ephesians 2:19**

BIG TRUTH

I AM PART OF GOD'S FAMILY.
Family Unity

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

The Unbreakable Chain

WHAT YOU NEED: yarn

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split kids into 2 groups. Have each group stand in a circle.
- Give each group a long piece of yarn, long enough that everyone in the circle can hold it with both hands.
- Tell the kids that you will be giving them challenges, and they will be trying to complete these challenges without letting go of the yarn.
- Challenges-
 - Pass a ball all the way around the circle using your feet.
 - Form your circle into a star shape.
 - Form your circle into a triangle.
 - Jump all at the same time 5 times in a row.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- What did you guys think of that game? That was fun!
- Today we are learning that we are united when we are part of God's family. That also means that we choose to work together and be a team!

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: This month we have been following along with the adults at HDC, learning about what it means to be part of God's family and our HDC church family! This week, we are learning about how we can be united with everyone in God's family, even the people who are different from us! What do you think unity means? (Allow for responses)

Your challenge today is to listen closely to our Bible story to hear what unity means and why it matters to us who are in God's family!

AFTER THE LESSON: The Bible tells us that unity is acting as one group that is more interested in what is best for the group than what is best for us as individuals. There might be other places in your life that you are encouraged to have unity, like with your siblings or on your team. The special thing about having unity with other people who believe in Jesus is that we have the love of God holding us all together! We can love each other because God loves us, and he helps us love people, even when they act or think differently from us.

When Jesus prayed for all believers (including us!), he prayed that we would be ONE. Even though HDC and the big church of Christians all around the world is made up of many people, Jesus wants us to act as one. We are going to talk more in our small group time about what unity means for us!

3. SMALL GROUPS

1. **Have you ever been part of a team or group that worked really well together? What made it work?**
2. **Before Jesus came, God's chosen people were called the Israelites. When Jesus came, he came to save them and everyone else, too! (They called everyone who wasn't an Israelite a Gentile.) Today we learned that we are able to be united with other believers, even if we are different from them! Let's open our Bibles to Ephesians 2:14-18 and read it together.**
 - o Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.
3. **We just learned that the Israelites and the Gentiles had a hard time having unity. Can you think of groups now that don't get along or don't have unity today?**
4. **Why do you think God cares about unity in the church?**
 - o Remind kids that all humans are made in the image of God. We all have value and worth! God wants us to treat each other with respect. When the church has unity, we are able to focus on loving others.
5. **What do you think would happen if HDC had perfect unity? What if we had no unity at all?**
6. **What is one thing you will remember that you learned at church this month?**

PRAY TOGETHER: God, please help us to have unity with each other. Sometimes we get frustrated or focused on what we want. We know that we can have unity because we are united in You! Help us to show others Your love this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTIVITY

Same and Different

WHAT YOU NEED: None

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids get into 2 equal lines, facing each other.
- Tell kids that their partner is the kid across from them. When you say "go", kids will try to find one thing about them that is the same, and one thing that is different.
- **Leader Option-** If your group is competitive, you could tell them that they are racing to be the first pair to find what is the same and different about them. They should raise their hand when they are done to determine the winner.
- Once kids have finished the round, have one line move down by one kid. Now, kids should have all new partners.
- Continue to play as time allows.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- The great thing about having unity in Christ is that we can be different and still unified! We can like different foods or go to different schools or have different colored eyes or skin, but still be unified!