



Sunday, May 21, 2023
 The Great Commission - John 17:1-11



What's the Big Idea?

Jesus sends us to spread the good news!

The Great Commission is one of the most important stories in the New Testament. We know it must be important because it appears in all four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). The most commonly told version of the Great Commission story is Matthew's version found in chapter 28, verses 16-20. Read both the John and Matthew accounts. How many differences can you find? If you're wondering why there are only 11 disciples instead of 12, it's because Judas was not around after the crucifixion and Matthias had not yet been chosen to join the disciples.

This story is so important because it reminds us that our mission is to go out into the world to show and tell others about the amazing love of God!

Did you know? The words *Gospel* and *Good News* mean the same thing?



Read It

Find this week's story on pages 496-497 of your Spark Story Bible.

Where do you see Squiggles this week?



Talk About It

- 1) Why do you think it's significant that Jesus prayed for his disciples?
- 2) Has anyone prayed for you before? What was it like and how did you feel afterward?
- 3) Some of the disciples traveled all over the world to spread the good news. Where would you travel to spread the gospel?
- 4) Jesus prayed, *All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.* What do you think he meant by that?

Pray: Dear God, you call us out into the world around us. When we want to stay within ourselves, you ask us to go out and share the good news with all. Help us rejoice in Jesus' love not only for ourselves, but for the world around us. Amen.

Try It

Jesus showed the disciples the wounds on his hands and feet to prove that it was really him. If someone didn't believe that you were who you said you were, how would you prove it to them?

In sign language, *Jesus* is signed by tapping the palm of one hand with the middle finger of the other, and vice-versa, showing Jesus' wounds.



Memorize It

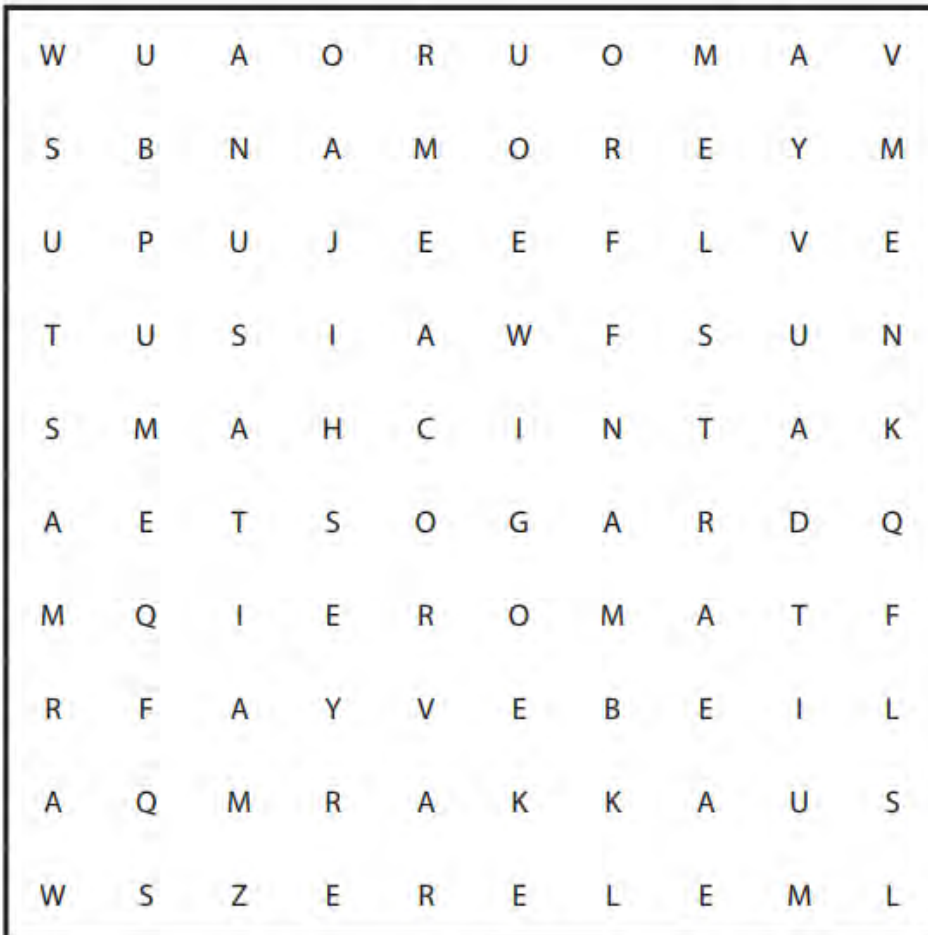
Challenge yourself to memorize the following verse of the week.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy God, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

John 17:11

The Great Commission

The disciples spread the Good News about Jesus to many people in many places. Today there are Christians all around the world! Look at the star in Jerusalem. Put a star where you live. Then connect the stars. Look how far the Good News traveled! Then color in the rest of the world.



After the Great Commission, the disciples traveled to spread Jesus' message of love around the world. Can you find these different ways to say love from around the world?

- Word** (language)
Maitasuna (Basque)
Armastus (Estonian)
Rakkaus (Finnish)
Amour (French)
Liebe (German)
Szerelem (Hungarian)
Amore (Italian)
Cinta (Indonesian)
Amor (Latin/Portuguese/Spanish)
Dragoste (Romanian)