



The Big Build

The Great Commission

BIG IDEA: God wants everyone to know the good news of Jesus, so I can share my faith with others.

BIBLE BASIS: Matthew 28:16–20; Acts 1:1–11

KEY VERSE: “Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
Matthew 28:19 (NirV)

★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Say: We are in a series called “The Big Build.” Over these next weeks, we’ll have the chance to practice our building skills while we hear stories about how God used ordinary people like us to build the early Church. For now, though, we’re going to build friendships by getting to know each other better!

Question: Tell us a story about the most amazing or incredible thing that has ever happened to you!

Question: When something awesome happens to you, do you tell people about it or do you keep it to yourself?

ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

If you have additional time before Large Group begins, play “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down.” Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON





★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

STORY QUESTIONS

For Younger Kids:

1. What did you find interesting about this story?
2. If you were one of the disciples, how would you have felt when you saw Jesus rising up into the sky?

For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about Jesus?
2. If Jesus' Church isn't built out of any physical material, what do you think it's made of?

BUILDING THE CHURCH (Application Activity)

Say: In our story for today, we learned that Jesus' last command was to tell others the good news about Him. Sometimes, the hardest part of telling others the good news is knowing what to say! Today, we're going to practice talking about the good news while we build a marshmallow "church" together.

Directions: Place toothpicks and marshmallows in the middle of the group. Choose a kid to answer a question. When a kid answers a question, they get to use 5 toothpicks and marshmallows to help build the church. Each kid builds on what the others have already created. Rotate through the questions below until every kid has had a chance to add to the "church."

NOTE: If a kid struggles to answer a question, give them a different question to answer. The goal is to help kids verbalize their relationship with Jesus. Some kids will find this harder than others—that's okay!

Questions:

- Tell us one thing that makes Jesus special.
- Tell us one reason why you know God is real.
- Tell us something cool that God has done.
- Tell us why you love Jesus.
- Tell us about a time when something from the Bible helped you.
- Tell us about a special moment you have had with God.
- Tell us about a way that Jesus has changed you or someone you know.

At the end of the game, say: Check out our church building! Just like you built on our marshmallow church after you answered my questions, you can help build God's church by saying the same things! All of the things I heard you say earlier can be used to build God's church. When you talk about your friendship with Jesus to others, you are spreading the good news!

BIBLE VERSE BRIDGE—FOR YOUNGER KIDS (Memory Verse Activity)

Directions: Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. Today's Bible verse says:





“Go and make disciples of all nations.” Matthew 28:19a

When it seems like they can remember it, have your group stand up. Tell the kids to get into a line and walk under the “bridge” formed by two kids holding hands in the air. As the kids march around in a circle, sing the following words to the tune of “London Bridge”: *“Can you say our memory verse, memory verse, memory verse? Can you say our memory verse? It’s your turn!”* At the end of the tune, have the two kids forming the bridge lower their arms around the kid under the bridge. Together, those three kids will have to say the verse aloud. When finished, have the “trapped” kid replace one of the kids on the bridge and repeat. Continue until everyone has had a turn saying the verse. When finished, sit down and ask your group the following questions:

Question: Now that you have that verse memorized, can you tell me what it means to you?

BIBLE BIT MIX UP—FOR OLDER KIDS (Memory Verse Activity)

Directions: Give each kid in your group a “Bible Bit” card. Each “Bible Bit” card has just one bit of the following Bible verse on it:

“Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19 (NirV)

For round 1: Have the children arrange the “Bible Bits” in the correct order on the floor. Children can only touch their own card. If someone touches a card other than their own, all the cards must be picked up and the round begins again. When they have completed each round successfully, gather the cards up and have the group recite the verse from memory.

For round 2: Redistribute the cards to the children making sure they have different cards this time. Children must repeat the instructions for round 1, but without talking this time.

For round 3: Repeat the above instructions, but children may neither talk, nor use their hands.

For round 4: Repeat the above instructions, but children may not talk, use their hands, nor smile. (*You’d be surprised how hard it is not to smile when you’re trying not to smile.*) If anyone smiles, the cards are picked back up and the round begins again.

Question: Now that you have that verse memorized, can you tell me what it means to you?

PRAYER STONES (Group Prayer Activity)

Directions: Tell the kids in your group that stones were often used in the Bible as a reminder of God’s goodness and faithfulness. Give each of the kids in your group one small stone and a permanent marker. Tell them to be careful not to write on anything but the stone. Ask them to think of something they need prayer for or something they’re thankful for. Instruct them to think of one word or picture that describes their prayer and write it down on their stone. For example, if they need help from God to get through a tough situation with a friend, they could write the word “friend” or draw their friend on their stone. Be ready to help kids translate their prayer into a word or picture. When everyone has had a chance to write their



Apr 30-May 1

Small Group Lesson | School Age



one-word or picture prayer, have them place the stones on the floor in front of them. Go around the circle and have each kid show what they wrote on their stone. Let them explain their prayer request or praise. Afterwards, tell the kids to keep the stone in their pocket all week long. Anytime they reach in and feel the stone, they'll be reminded to bring their prayer request or praise to God. End the activity by leading your kids in a prayer.

