

9

Burning Your Skis

Service
We follow Jesus' example by serving others.

POWER TEXT

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 28:16-20
- *The Desire of Ages*, chaps. 86, 87, pp. 818-835
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 147-150; vol. 9, pp. 182-186
- Student story on page 102 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 13, The Remnant and Its Mission
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 12, The Church

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Jesus asked them to share the gospel with others.
- **Feel** privileged to be chosen to tell others about Jesus.
- **Respond** by accepting the responsibility to share the good news of salvation with others.

POWERPOINT

We accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Just before Jesus is to return to heaven He leaves instructions for all His followers. They are to tell others, all around the world, about Jesus and the good news of salvation, and to teach them to follow Him.

This is a lesson about service.

We are also commissioned to share the good news of Jesus with others around us. Jesus promises to always be with us as we do what He asks.

Teacher Enrichment

The Great Commission outlined in Matthew 28:19, 20 constitutes the great charter of the Christian church. They were to go to the ends of the world to teach all nations—both Jews and Gentiles; therefore, it is also referred to as the charter of foreign missions. "Christianity was the first religion to assume a truly international character. Pagan religions were largely devoid of missionary zeal and activity. They were primarily national in character and did not set out to make converts of other national groups" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 557).

"'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16:15), is Christ's command to His followers. Not that all are called to be ministers or missionaries in the ordinary sense of the term; but all may be workers with Him in giving the 'glad tidings' to their fellow men. To all, great or small, learned or ignorant, old or young, the command is given" (*Education*, p. 264).

"Someone must fulfill the commission of Christ; someone must carry on the work which He began to do on earth; and the church has been given this privilege. For this purpose it has been organized" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 295).

How will I take advantage of the privilege of Christ's work on earth? What "glad tidings" will I bring to someone today? How can I fulfill the Great Commission right here in my classroom?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. Missionary Muses	paper, pencils, encyclopedias, travel books, world atlas
		B. Biblical Missionaries	Bibles, concordances, paper, pencils, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 97. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering box, globe/map
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	large paper for mural, paint/markers
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, maps (optional)
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	paper, pencils
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Gospel in a Nutshell*	paper, pencils
* Closing		A. Prayer and closing comments	
		B. Reminder to parents	
		C. Coming up next week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ encyclopedias
- ☐ travel books
- ☐ world atlas

Missionary Muses

Say: **Think of a country and describe how you think it would be like to live there as a missionary. Write a letter to your family or friends, explaining the challenges and advantages of being a missionary.** Provide resources for students who wish to research facts about foreign countries.

Debriefing

Give students opportunity to share their written thoughts. Ask: **What is required to be a missionary? Let's say together our power text, Matthew 28:19, 20.**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Say: **Today we can tell God:**

We accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Allow students who experience difficulty with writing and spelling to work with a partner who could assist them.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ concordances
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Biblical Missionaries

Ask each student to make a list of at least three biblical characters who acted as missionaries either in their own communities or in foreign lands.

Debriefing

Have them share what they have found as you make a list on a board. On the list, include the name of the character as well as the activity that they performed (i.e., Paul, preaching; Dorcas, charity; Abraham, hospitality; etc.). Ask: **What do you think it means to be a missionary? Where might you like to serve as a missionary? What places might need missionaries the most? These Bible characters are good examples of sharing the gospel with others. Let's say together our power text, Matthew 28:19, 20.**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Say: **Today we want to tell God:**

We accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others.

Accommodations for students with special needs

Allow students who experience difficulty with writing and spelling to express their answers verbally while one of their peers helps record them in writing.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Let's Talk About Jesus" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 46)
"Song for the Nations" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 131)
"Pass It On" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 130)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adult (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering box

Use an offering box. Before you collect the offering, ask the class if anyone is saving their money for some special project. Point out that the story this week describes such a situation and that it may give members something to think about.

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ globe OR map

Show the globe or map and ask students to select a country to focus on. Then, in prayer, give them an opportunity to ask God's special blessing on His work in the countries that they have chosen. Close by praying for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask four volunteers to do a role play. Give them this scenario to use: **Joe has been waiting for a letter to arrive in the mail and tell him whether or not his class choir has been chosen to perform for the president's family (king, queen, prime minister, etc.). He is anxious and excited as he checks the mail each day for news of the performance. Finally the letter arrives. He opens and reads, that not only has the choir been invited, but the rest of the class is also invited! He continues reading and discovers that money has already been donated and all their expenses have been paid.**

After the role play has been performed, ask: **How did Joe feel when he received the letter? What do you think was the first thing he wanted to do? How is Joe's good news like or unlike the good news we have about Jesus? Our lesson today is about the Great Commission that Jesus gave us to share the good news of Him with others.**

We accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others.

(Alternative)

Invite someone who has served on a short-term mission trip to meet with the class and, in a short presentation, talk about the more exciting aspects of such an experience.

Say: **Our Bible lesson today is about the Great Commission that Jesus gave us to share the good news of Him with others.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ large paper for mural
- ☐ paint/markers

Experiencing the Story

Say: **Let's say together our power text, Matthew 28:19, 20.**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

This passage is about Jesus giving the Great Commission. What do you think the Great Commission means? ("Commission" means an authorization or command to act in a specific manner or to perform specific acts.) **Let's describe what it means to be a missionary. How would you illustrate it? Remember that a person can be a missionary at home as well as overseas, and making disciples involves not only baptizing but teaching as well.**

Say: **I would like you to join the others in creating a mural depicting this verse and how it is being accomplished. You may want to discuss it and come up with a master plan.** When the students have finished or used the amount of time you allotted, debrief.

Debriefing

Ask: **How is this being done today? Why might this be something you would want to be involved in? What does it mean to you to "make disciples of all nations"? What are some of the challenges of sharing the good news? We want to tell Jesus:**

We accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ maps (optional)

Exploring the Bible

Have the students find and read Mark 16:15. Say: **It may seem overwhelming to think that we are responsible to spread the good news to all of creation if we are trying to do this in our own strength. How can we make this "commission" a little more manageable? Let's find and read Acts 1:8.** Read the verse aloud together. Ask: **First of all, where are we going to get the power to accomplish our "commission"?** (We will receive power from the Holy Spirit.) **And what exactly are we commissioned to do?** (To be witnesses of what Jesus has done for us and wants to do for others.) **And what does this verse tell us to help us break down our responsibility to something a little more manageable than "all of creation"?** (It says to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.) **What does this mean?** (Jerusalem is a city, Judea is comparable to our state or province, Samaria could mean the country, and "the ends of the earth" is self-explanatory. We are asked to start right where we are, and then go farther away as God leads us.) **Let's repeat once again our power text, Matthew 28:19, 20.**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Say: **Wherever we are:**

We accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Scenario

Read the following scenario aloud to your students: **Jasmin met Jerrod through a mutual friend. They liked each other and began to talk quite a bit, seeing each other whenever they could. When Jerrod found out Jasmin was a Christian, he asked her a pointed question: "I've always heard people speak of the 'good news of the gospel.' What is it? If it's such good news, I want to know it. Why are people so unclear about it?"**

Jasmin didn't know quite what to say. "I guess it's that Jesus died and rose again," she said hesitantly.

"But what's so good about that news? What does it have to do with me?" Jerrod replied.

"I, um . . . I don't know," Jasmin said, and quickly changed the subject, a bit embarrassed. Jerrod felt reassured in his view that Christianity had nothing in it for him.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think Jerrod was thinking after Jasmin's explanation? How could Jasmin have explained the good news of the gospel? Why do you think she didn't know? What would you do if you found yourself in this situation? How can you be better prepared to answer someone's questions?** (We need to first ask the Holy Spirit to teach us how to most effectively share the gospel and tell others about how it has changed our lives.) Then, we can write down what we might say to someone (our story) so we can get it clearly in our minds.

Say: **Let's say our power point together:**

We accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Gospel in a Nutshell

Invite students to share if they had the opportunity to tell others about Jesus either through words or through actions. Ask: **What experiences did you have sharing Jesus with someone? What things have you shared, through service, to let people know that Jesus loves them? What are some volunteer activities at church or in the community in which you could participate?**

Say: **Think of a commercial (billboard/advertisement) that you really like to watch.** Explain that in a commercial you have to take the entire concept and information about a product—the essence of it—and break it down into no more than five of the most important attributes, characteristics, or selling points of that product. Then all that must be fit into 30-60 seconds' worth of commercial time.

Divide the students into groups of five or six. Ask them to create a commercial for the good news of the gospel, using the same techniques. Remind them to think about the "selling point," the thing that would make people want to "buy in" on the idea. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to share their commercials.

Debriefing

Ask: **What makes your commercials interesting to someone who doesn't know the good news about Jesus? What are the key points of your advertisement? Why would someone be excited about this? How will you put this information to use in sharing your joy about the good news with your friends or your classmates or your teachers or your family? Let's repeat once again our power point:**

We accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Father, we accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others. Help us to have courage to share our joy with others who need You. Thank You for entrusting us with this responsibility. Amen.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Paul teaches about God's armor. God has provided us an armor of protection against evil.**

Notes

Student lesson

Burning Your Skis

What does the Great Commission have to do with your life?

I was listening to the radio this morning," Mr. Andrews began, "and I heard a pastor talking about spreading the good news of Jesus to the people of India. Did you know that the gospel message is sent out over the radio to more than 5 million Indian people every day?"

Mr. Andrews looked at the class. "The pastor said that when pastors hold meetings to share about Jesus, thousands of people show up! People are so hungry to learn about the Lord!" Mr. Andrews paused. "I decided this morning that I am going to be a missionary."

The students looked at one another. Jeremy raised his hand. "Does that mean you're not going to be our teacher anymore?" he asked.

Mr. Andrews smiled. "No," he said. "It means I have decided that I am going on a mission trip this summer. I am going to Mexico! Jeremy," he continued, "would you please read Matthew 28:19 and 20 for us?"

Jeremy found the texts and read aloud, "'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" He looked up.

"Thank you, Jeremy," Mr. Andrews said. He looked at the class. "I've been thinking for a long time that I would like to be a missionary. And the pastor on the radio this morning really inspired me. I think God was speaking to my heart.

"We can get caught up in so many things here on earth," Mr. Andrews went on. "Making money, making friends, having a good time. It's so easy to forget what's really important in life."

Marianne waved her hand in the air. "My dad is always telling me that," she said. "He says everything here on earth is going to burn, and we need to store our treasure up in heaven."

"Your dad's absolutely right," Mr. Andrews said. "I want you to think about today's Bible story. Those words that Jeremy read are just about the last words the disciples heard from Jesus' lips before He went back to heaven.

"Jesus had asked them to meet Him at a special place where they had spent a lot of time together. He gave them encouragement and instructions and told them that He would be with them always.

"But Jesus wasn't speaking just to His 11 disciples. He was speaking to all His disciples down through the ages. He was speaking to you and to me. We have all been chosen to tell others about Jesus. There's nothing more important that we can do in this life. So I decided to burn my skis."

The class looked blank.

Mr. Andrews laughed. "Well, let me explain what I mean by 'burning up my skis.' I have been saving up for a new pair of snow skis. But because, as Marianne's dad says, everything here is going to burn, I am going to use the money for my mission trip to Mexico instead."

"Is it wrong to buy snow skis?" Trevor asked.

"No," Mr. Andrews answered. "But I've decided that it's a real privilege to be chosen to tell people about Jesus, and that my mission trip is more important."

"Well," Trevor interrupted, "I think you're a missionary already. You teach us about God's love. And this year Bible class is my favorite class."

"Trevor's right," Marianne said. "I think we can all be missionaries. I think we all are missionaries already. It's just that sometimes we forget it."

"I wish kids could go on mission trips," Matthew added.

"Well, the good news is that they can!" Mr. Andrews said. "There are lots of trips for families. The trip this summer is for families, and Pastor Jack says there are still openings."

"I have $45 saved up," Matthew said. "I'm saving for a new mountain bike. But maybe I could use the money for a mission trip."

"I think I have more information sheets about the mission trip in my briefcase," Mr. Andrews said. "Who wants one?"

Each student raised a hand.

KEY REFERENCES

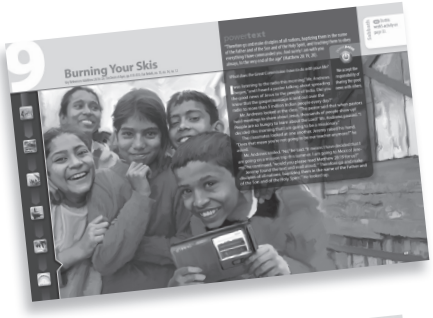
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- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 147-150; vol. 9, pp. 182-186
- Our Beliefs nos. 13, 14, 12

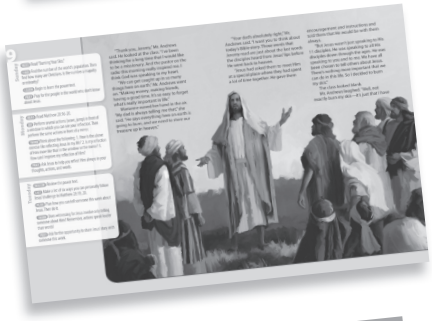
POWER TEXT

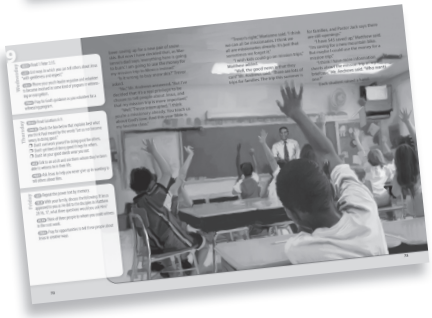
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

POWER POINT

We accept the responsibility of sharing the good news with others.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 74.

Sunday

READ Read Matthew 28:16, 17 and this week's story, "Burning Your Skis."

FIND Find the number of the world's population. Then find how many are Christians. Is the number a majority or minority? What can we do about this reality?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for the people who don't know about Jesus.

Monday

READ Read Matthew 28:18.

THINK Why is it important to know that all authority belongs to Jesus and that He changes people's hearts? How will you, knowing this, serve others?

SERVE Do something today that will help someone know about Jesus. Invite the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom as you approach that person.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you reflect Him always in your thoughts, actions, and words.

Tuesday

READ Read Matthew 28:19, 20.

LIST Make a list of six ways you can personally follow Jesus' call to spread the gospel.

THINK In what ways other than talking can you witness for Jesus? Remember, actions speak louder than words!

SHARE Look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask for the opportunity to share Jesus' story with someone this week.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Peter 3:15.

LIST List ways in which you can tell others about Jesus "with gentleness and respect."

CALL Phone your youth leader or pastor and volunteer to become involved in witnessing or evangelism.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for God's guidance as you witness for Him.

Thursday

READ Read Galatians 6:9.

CHECK Check the box below that explains best what you think Paul meant by the words "Let us not become weary in doing good."

❒ Don't overwork yourself in doing good for others.

❒ Don't get tired of doing good things for others.

❒ Don't let your good deeds wear you out.

ASK Ask an adult to share how he/she witnessed.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask Jesus to give you the desire to share Him.

Friday

READ Read Acts 2:42–47.

SAY Repeat the power text by memory.

TALK With your family, discuss the following: If Jesus appeared to you as He did to the disciples in Matthew 28:16, 17, what questions would you ask Him?

PLAN Think of a few people to whom you could witness and make the effort to do so.

PRAY Pray for opportunities to tell these people about Jesus in creative ways.