



The Purpose of the Church

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Lesson Goal

Help students see that the Biblical purpose of the church is to evangelize the world because that is God's method of reconciling the world unto Himself made possible by the atoning death of Christ.

Lesson Objectives

1. Show how the purpose of the church is seen in its creation.
2. Show how the purpose of the church is seen in its reason for being left behind.
3. Show how terrible it is when the church gets off track.
4. Show how you can help your church fulfill its purpose.

Key Verse

Matthew 28:18-20 – “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have

Application

1. Pray for missionaries. Collect prayer cards and pray for missionaries by name.
2. Pray for laborers to be sent out of your local church (Mat 9:37-38).
3. Start giving to Faith Promise Missions through your local church.
4. Make it a short-term goal to go on a mission trip.
5. Read Missionary biographies and pass them on to others.
6. Attend an Our Generation event such as camp or summit.
7. Help make the purpose of the church known in your church.



Teacher Planning Sheet

Prepare

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____

Point

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

Proclaim

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____

Practice

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____



Lesson

Have you ever asked yourself about the big picture of “Why did God send His Son to live, die and resurrect from the dead?” The answer is clearly found in probably the most famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16 which says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” So God sent His Son so that anybody anywhere could be saved by believing on the work of redemption finished by Jesus.

On a Friday night in September a high school football game had come down to a field goal. The home team had the ball on around the opposing team’s 25-yard line. They had called their final time out. The kicker was called onto the field with just seconds left on the clock. All of the strategizing, sweat, and hard work had come down to this. The teams lined up. The whistle was blown. The ball was hiked and placed by the holder and the kicker took his steps and...and at that point the game was in the hands of the kicker.

In our key verses we see Jesus, right before ascending back to Heaven, after living a perfect life, after suffering a horrific death, and after rising from the grave doing all that was needed for the salvation of the world.... hiking the ball so to speak to His disciples. It is Christ and His disciples that make up the very first church. So in Matthew 28:18-20 when Christ is telling His disciples their purpose He is telling the churches their purpose. The purpose of the church...your church, is in the words of Christ “...to teach all nations...” the gospel He has made possible!

The Bible gives great insight to the horrors and humiliation Christ experienced in dying for our sins and not ours only but the sins of the whole world (I Jn 2:2). He did this to purchase the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). The creation of the church was by His blood and the purpose of every church is to propagate the good news that His blood was shed so that the whole world could be saved. With that being said can you see how awful it is when a church forgets, or doesn’t understand or simply gets off track with the purpose for which Christ started it? Someone has said, “The rankest heresy of which a church can be guilty is to ignore or repudiate its missionary obligation.” It cost Christ His life and He wants to save and add to His local churches as many as will be saved by His blood.

Paul expresses the dilemma plainly in Romans 10:13-15, He says, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”



So the purpose of the church is to evangelize the world because that is God's chosen method of reconciling the world unto Himself. Churches can't make people get saved, but churches can and should strive to get the gospel to all nations so that men can have the opportunity to call upon the name of the Lord to be saved. Otherwise, how can men be saved? The answer is they cannot. They must have missionaries sent to them to preach the good news to them.

Fellowship with other believers in the local church is important. Worship in the local church is critical. Having good teaching and preaching in a church is a non-negotiable. Giving faithfully of your time, talents, and treasures to your local church are marks of a mature Christian. But the gospel of Jesus Christ being sent into all the world by your local church is THE PURPOSE for which it exists if it is to be called a true New Testament church. So how can you help your church and be a blessing and help to your pastor as he leads the church to be a church that seeks to fulfill its purpose in reaching the world with the gospel? (See application section.)

Review Questions

1. In I John 2:2 the Bible says Jesus is the propitiation (means atonement) not just for our sins but the sins of what?
2. How can we make the best use of the great sacrifice of Jesus?
3. What is THE PURPOSE of every church?
4. How can the world be saved according to Romans 10:13-15?
5. Do you personally have a burden for lost people around the world to hear the gospel?
6. How are you helping your church fulfill its Biblical purpose?
7. How do you think you can help your church better fulfill its purpose of reaching the world with the gospel?
8. Do you think the average church member knows and has a serious conviction about the purpose of the church?
9. Do you think it's important that we help one another understand and develop a conviction about the purpose of the church?
10. Will you commit to sharing this lesson with another member in your local church that didn't get to hear it?"



The Purpose of the Church

Matthew 28:18-20

Name _____

1. Write Matthew 28:19

2. God sent _____ so that _____ could be saved by believing on the work of redemption finished by Jesus.

3. Who made up the very first church? _____

4. The purpose of the church, is in the words of Christ "...to _____ all nations..."

5. True or False: Fellowship with other believers in the local church is the most important function of the church. _____

6. What can you do as a Christian to help "teach all nations"? _____



What Does God Teach?

Many people believe that the purpose of the church is for people to fellowship and to have the Pastor preach a sermon. We have learned today that this is not the main purpose of the church. Let's take a closer look at Matthew 28:19-20 to see just what God says about the church.

Matthew 28:19 – “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

Who is the “ye” in this verse? _____

What instruction does Jesus give you in this verse? _____

Matthew 28:20 – “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

What are you supposed to teach? _____

Who is with you? _____

How often is He with you? _____

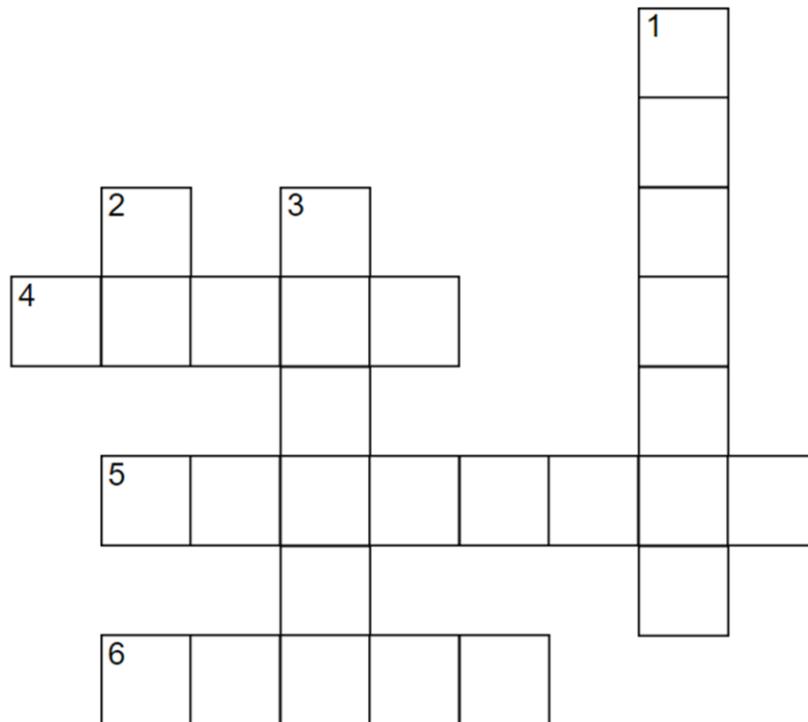
What can you do now to prepare to “teach all nations”? _____

What can you do now to fulfill this command to “teach all nations”? _____



The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 – “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

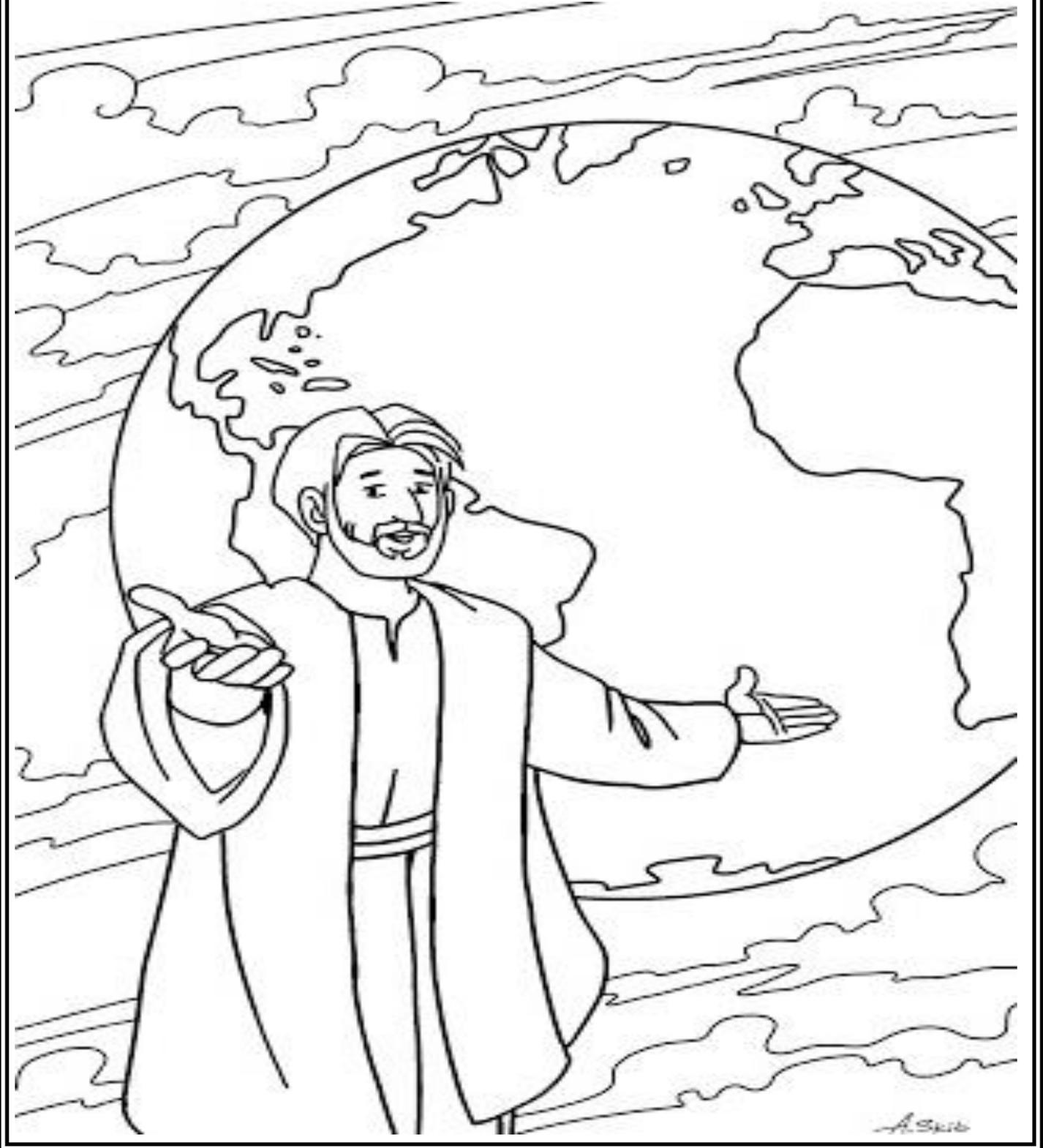


ACROSS

- 4 - Another word for the earth
- 5 - Giving instructions to a group of students
- 6 - The Son of God

DOWN

- 1 - Groups of people living in a certain area
- 2 - The opposite of stop
- 3 - How often Jesus is with us



A. S. C.