

Global Warming of a Different Kind



Theme: Sharing God's love with others; Trinity Sunday, Yr. A

Object: A world globe

Scripture: "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 (NIV)

Hardly any subject gets more press coverage or sparks more debate than global warming. It is being blamed for higher temperatures, storms, rising sea levels, droughts, and virtually any other phenomenon which we can't explain. There are some who believe that if a solution is not found, the world is doomed. There are others who think global warming is just a natural trend which will correct itself in time. The purpose of our lesson today is not to try to persuade you one way or the other about the issue of global warming. I would, however, like to discuss global warming of a different kind and encourage you to do your part to increase it.

Back in 1969, a composer by the name of Kurt Kaiser wrote a song entitled "Pass It On." Here is a part of the lyrics of that song:

Pass It On

It only takes a spark,
To get a fire going.
And soon all those around
Can warm up it it's glowing.

That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it;
You spread his love to everyone,
You want to pass it on.

There is no doubt that our Lord approved of this form of global warming. Before he returned to heaven, he gave this admonition to his disciples, "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."

You and I have the Good News that the world needs. Let's "Pass It On."

Father, we have been given the task of making disciples of all nations. Help us to be faithful in sharing your love and teaching others to keep your commandments. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

TELLING OTHERS: Divide the children into teams and each team will gather in a circle to decide what they want to TELL the other team. The teacher may want to have slips of paper to give to each team with suggested ideas of what they could tell the other team. They should TELL the idea together in unison if possible. If time allows, let the teams TELL a few times and then gather in a circle to hear about today's lesson.

POST OFFICE DELIVERING: Let the children run a relay to a "post office" poster board and deliver cards that the teacher has prepared ahead of time! The relay can be run back and forth from the team players to the POST OFFICE picture poster to see which team can DELIVER the mail the quickest! Let children know that we need to deliver Christ's INVITATION as soon as we can!

HIDE, SEEK AND DELIVER: The teacher will hide letters, cards, and small toys around a designated area (and name an area where this should be delivered). Have the children find the article and DELIVER it to where the item is supposed to be delivered. The teacher can have boxes labels with words or colors, or children can have delivery places in rooms, or other areas in the HIDING area, as desired.

GREAT COMMISSION POSTER: Provide the children with supplies to make a poster for THE GREAT COMMISSION and decorate the edges or place their poster into inexpensive frames.

INTERESTING INVITATIONS: Give each child construction paper, markers and stickers to make their own invitations to "Come to Jesus" and encourage children to share their "invitations" with another person after class!

PAINTING POSTER: Give the children a large sheet of construction paper and paints so that a poster can be painted for today's lesson! The teacher can give children ideas for special words or hearts to represent God's Love, or a dove to represent the Holy Spirit, etc.

Go and Make Disciples



Theme: The Great Commission (Trinity Sunday)

Object: A bottle with a message inside.

Scripture: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 28:18-20 (NIV)

Have you ever read a story or seen a movie about someone putting a message inside of a bottle and putting it in the ocean? Perhaps it was someone who has been stranded on an island in the middle of the ocean and put a message in a bottle hoping that someone would find it and come to rescue him. Maybe it was someone who just wanted to see where the wind and the waves might take the message.

I read a true story about a man named Harold Meyers who went on a cruise in the Caribbean. While on the

ship, he took three bottles and placed a message with his name and address and a dollar inside each bottle. The dollar was to pay the postage so that the person who found the message would write to him and tell him where they found it. Next, he put a cork in the bottles, sealed them with wax, and threw them over the side of the ship into the ocean. His friends all teased him saying that he was just throwing good money into the ocean.

Well, what happened to those bottles is quite amazing. Of those three bottles he threw into the ocean, two were found and he received a reply from the person who found it. Two out of three! That's amazing!

"To tell you the truth," Mr. Meyers said, "I was shocked. I guess I really never expected to hear from anybody at all."

I was thinking, perhaps that might be a good way to spread the message of Jesus all around the world. We could write John 3:16 on pieces of paper. You know John 3:16, don't you? "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." We could write that on a piece of paper, put it in a bottle, and drop it in the ocean. Then the good news of Jesus would float all around the world.

Does that sound like a good plan to you? Well, to tell the truth, I think that sounds like a pretty foolish plan. I don't think that would get the message of God's love to very many people. What would be a good way to get the good news of God's love to people all around the world? Jesus told his disciples how he wanted it done, and the plan is still just as good today as it was then.

Jesus said, "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." Jesus wants us to tell everyone we meet about his love for them and share with them what he has taught us in the Bible. He didn't say, "Send a message in a bottle," he said, "Go and make disciples."

Dear Father, help us to obey the command that you gave us to go and make disciples. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

“GREAT COMMISSION” BANNER: Let each child wear a decorated banner that can be taped to the child from the shoulder and slanted across the child's body for display. Children can trace or draw GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES on their banners! For added emphasis, ALL the children can sign each other banners if they, indeed, want to be one of Christ's DISCIPLES!

GO GAME: Leader will have children stand in a line against the wall and begin to tell children that JESUS says to GO and _____, or GO and _____, etc. If JESUS says to do it, then the children can attempt to obey the command, (ex: GO and PRAY, GO and read your Bible, GO and quote your Bible verse today, GO and give someone a hug, etc). If JESUS doesn't say to GO, then the children will stand still until the next command. This can lead into our Bible lesson today. (Teacher can let children take turns at this “Simon Says-type-game”).

JOHN 3:16 CAPS: Purchase a visor cap for each child. Let them write JOHN 3:16 on their caps with fabric pens, as well as decoration. Other children could sign their names on each other caps for those who know and believe John 3:16!

BIBLE VERSE COVER UP: Take turns uncovering words on the puzzle poster board (prepared ahead of classtime by writing the Bible verse out and covering a word or a phrase with small pieces of paper), to give the words of our Bible Verse today! As each group of words are displayed, let children try to figure out what the verse says. If they can't, then have another child uncover some more words. (Use today's Bible verse and tell the children what they will know today at the end of our class time).

HIDE AND SEEK AND GO: When the leader or “it” has found someone in the “hide and seek” game, they will tell that person to GO and get a treat to give to someone else. The treats can be hidden as well so those children who have been found will still enjoy NOW “seeking” the treats as well!!

GO AND FIND: One person who is “it” will GO and FIND someone. Then the TWO of them will GO and FIND the next person but cannot let go of each other. When the third person is found, the 3 of them will GO and FIND the next person, but holding hands and not disconnecting until all children are FOUND!

“DISCIPLE OF JESUS” BRACELET: Children can make bracelets with lettered beads if available and if time allows, OR children can make a construction paper bracelet that they have written DISCIPLE OF JESUS on and this can be taped to the child’s wrist, to remind them of their lesson today.

MAKE DISCIPLES: Teacher can lay a long runner of paper down the middle of the classroom table and give children markers and stickers, etc, to make a JOHN 3:16 banner for the classroom wall. The Bible verse can be written on the banner, as well, as stickers or pictures of hearts, crosses, etc. Some children may enjoy writing John 3:16’s words along the edges of the banner several times! For added fun, let children see if they can ALL fit their names inside the “O” of the word, JOHN. Tell children they at ALL “disciples” of Jesus if they believe and claim John 3:16 and want to be “followers” of Jesus!