



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

April 12, 2015

Narrative Lectionary

Matthew 28:16-20



Go and Make Disciples. *Object:* A bottle with a message inside

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."

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Alleluia (John 20:29)

Dear Father, help us to obey the command that you gave us to go and make disciples. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. *- Used by permission, Sermons4kids*

Word Search Puzzle

M X H H S W K T E A C H I N G
O D E L Y O B E Y L L O U O J
U A A U B A P T I Z I N G P I
N I V T G A I T H V F R H M E
T G E N C R W M H L K S L R L
A T N P O I A O S E B T L C E
I B C H A W B N R J X K L S V
N V T O I L O B V S T L E K E
D U Y Z M I W X Q E H L R H N
A J B A T M K A K G P I T X X
O E O A Z C A A Y I C R P Y F
N S N T K R M N C S A U I E Z
J U Q A I J W S D E E R Z D D
H S Z N J C I F B E G D D L Z
G I V E N D K B T H D I B R S

OBEY	DISCIPLES	EARTH	AUTHORITY
JESUS	MOUNTAIN	ALWAYS	TEACHING
BAPTIZING	HEAVEN	COMMANDED	ELEVEN
NATIONS	MAKE	WORSHIPED	GIVEN

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).

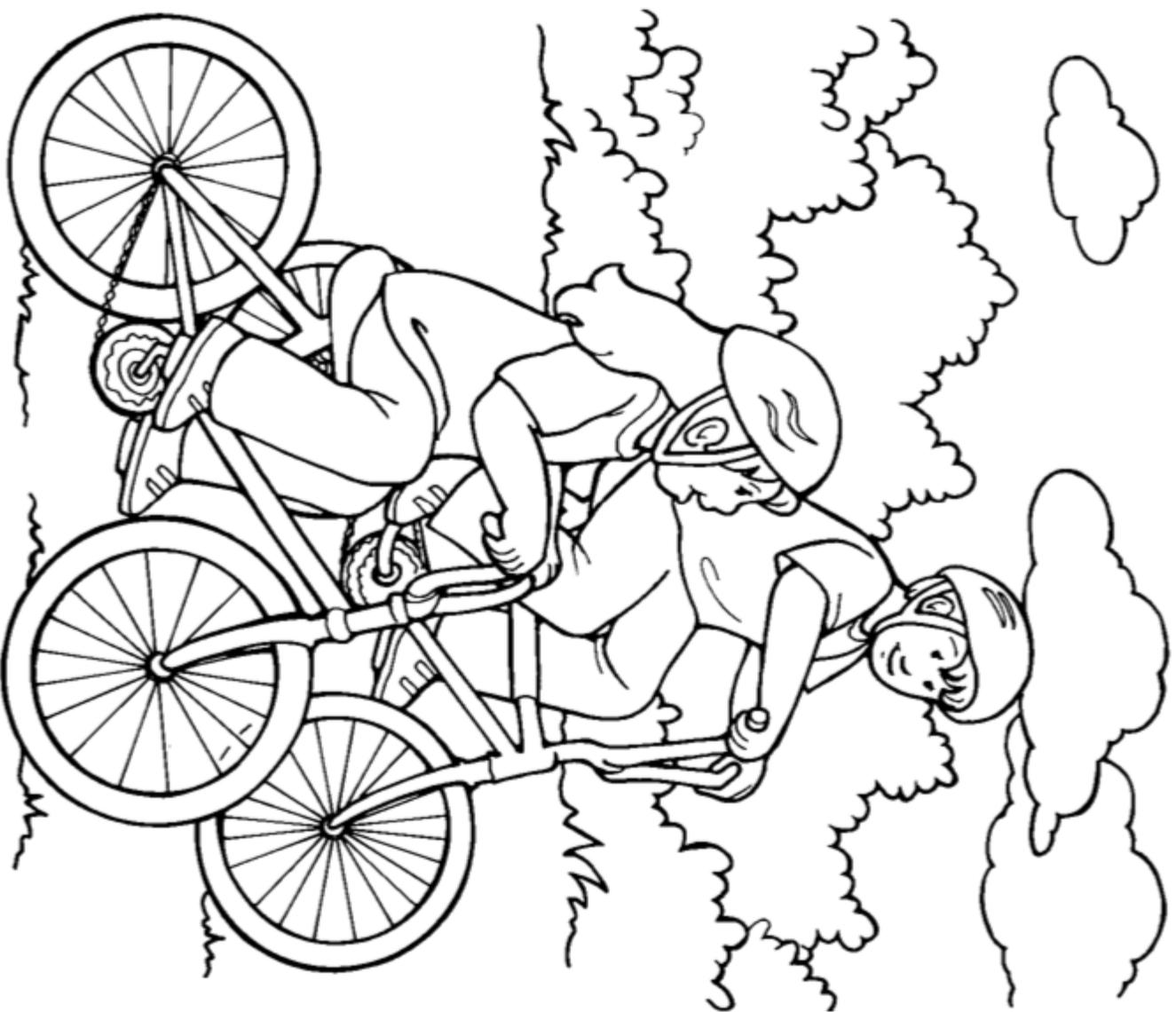
"GREAT COMMISSION" BANNER: Let each child wear a decorated banner that can be taped to the child from the shoulder and slanted across the child's body for display.

Children can trace or draw GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES on their banners!

"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.

I CAN TELL MY

FRIENDS ABOUT JESUS!



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