LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:
God wants us to tell the world about Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:
Kids will pray for a friend who needs to hear about Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:
Matthew 28:18-20 The Great Commission

MEMORY VERSE:
"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)

SUMMARY:
If you put an empty shell up to your ear you can hear the sounds of the ocean. Let's start the New Year right, by filling the ears of our friends and families with the good news about Jesus.

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Help us to share the story of Jesus.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

MEMORY VERSE

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)

LARGE GROUP:
Pick out some kids at random from the crowd and see who can recite the memory verse. Then repeat it all together.

SMALL GROUP:
Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SKIT

THE SEA SHELL

ITEMS NEEDED:
Seashells

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:
2 M or F

CHARACTERS:
The narrator
Gary - A guy on the beach

The seashells are spread out on stage. Gary walks on stage. He lifts a seashell to his ear. Sound effect of the ocean plays. He picks up another one and listens. The sound of the ocean plays again. He picks up a third and he hears:

NARR: Jesus loves you!

Gary pulls the seashell from his ear. He looks at it. He looks inside it. He listens again. He hears a voice from inside:

NARR: Jesus wants to be your Savior!

GARY: Who, me?

NARR: Yes, you!

GARY: Who are you?

NARR: I'm the narrator.

GARY: You are?

NARR: I've been telling these kids about the story of Jesus the last couple of weeks.

GARY: What are you doing in a seashell?

SKIT

NARR: Telling you the same thing!

GARY: Why?

NARR: Because Jesus loves you.

GARY: He does?

NARR: Yes!

GARY: How do I know that's true?

NARR: Because God sent Jesus to Earth at Christmas. He died for your sins on the cross, and he rose to new life.

GARY: You're kidding!

NARR: Nope!

GARY: For me? Gary Wayne McGillicutty?

NARR: Not just you. But everyone.

GARY: That's great news. Maybe I oughta tell other people!

NARR: Of course you should. Jesus wants the whole world to know, but he can't do it unless we tell them.

GARY: Well let's tell them already!

NARR: Sounds good to me. But can you do me a favor?

GARY: What's that?

NARR: Call 911 and tell them to send the jaws of life. I'm stuck in this shell!

GARY: How did you get in there?

NARR: It's a long story, but a couple guys dressed as an angelfish and a starfish stuffed me in here.

GARY: Don't worry, pal, we'll get you out of there. And pal? Thanks for telling me about Jesus.

SKIT

NARR: You can thank me by telling others.

GARY: You got it… but after the jaws of life!

Gary exits with the seashell.

FINDING CHRISTMAS

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:
A conch seashell (one that will allow you to hear the ocean when you put it next to your ear.)

Let a few kids listen to the seashell before beginning the lesson.

Seashells are fascinating, from the way they are formed under the waves, to the way they allow us to “listen” to the sea. No, it’s not actually the sea we hear when we listen to a seashell, but we get to hear something very similar to the peaceful sound of the ocean.

As we end this series about Christmas, we want you to go out and give the world something to hear. We want all of you to follow Jesus’ command and tell others about the meaning of Christmas. God sent Jesus to save the whole world from sin, but he's asked us to make sure the whole world knows that.

The Great Commission isn’t just a command for pastors and Sunday school teachers. It’s a command for all of us to follow. Let’s give Jesus our hearts, and our lives, and our lips. Let’s use our voices to tell the world Jesus loves them.

LARGE GROUP GAME

DEEP SEA PASSWORD

ITEMS NEEDED:
Note cards

INSTRUCTIONS:
Write the names of five sea creatures on note cards: octopus, seahorse, shark, whale, and lobster.

Pick two pairs of kids. Send one pair out of the room. Give the cards to one of the two kids remaining. The team will have 60 seconds to play password; the kid with the card must describe the creature on the card to the other, and their partner has to guess the sea creature to get a point. After the first team goes, bring in the second team and see how they do. The winner is the team that gets the most answers right, or the team that guesses all five animals the quickest.

VARIATION:
Put pictures of the sea creatures on the cards instead of words for younger kids.

WHAT'S THE POINT?
God wants us to tell everyone about Jesus.

FINDING CHRISTMAS

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:
God wants us to tell the world about Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:
Kids will pray for a friend who needs to hear about Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:
Matthew 28:18-20 The Great Commission

INTRO:
How many of you have visited the ocean? It's a remarkable sight, and a life-changing encounter to see the ocean in person. It's one thing to look at the ocean in pictures, but it's quite another to walk on the sand, to feel the waves pushing and pulling you in the shallows, and smell the unmistakable scent of salt water.

The ocean can be relaxing, and soothing. It can help you feel connected to God, enjoying the amazing beauty of the world he's made. It's just a shame you can't bring the ocean home with you, right?

Well, yes and no. You see there's a special souvenir we can all afford and all bring home with us that can transport us back to the beach at any time. It's a seashell. If you find a large seashell and you lift it to your ear, what can you hear?

Well, technically, it's not actually the ocean. The hollow, empty seashell acts as an amplifier, and the rushing water sound you hear is in fact the sound of the blood pumping through the blood vessels inside your ear. But heard inside a seashell, that sound is as close as you'll ever find to the peaceful rush of the ocean.

God wanted us to take the beach with us. He wanted us to be reminded not of our vacations, but the beauty of his creation as we take away our souvenirs from the beach. Today, as we wrap up our series, we're going to focus on something we can take away from the Christmas story: God's call to tell others about Jesus.

READ MATTHEW 28:18-20

MAIN POINT:
We've jumped from the start of Jesus' story to the end this week.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Jesus is no child, but a man who has already conquered death and risen to new life. Jesus has fulfilled the mission that began with his birth, and now that he has opened the way to Heaven, he wants the world to know.

There's no "seashell" to tell other people about Jesus. God had a better plan. He chose you and me. God wants all Christians to share Jesus with their friends and family and everyone else they meet. God gave the Great Commission to us!

The Great Commission is not just for pastors, deacons, elders, Sunday school teachers, and missionaries. It is a command for every believer. God is counting on us to be seashells. He's counting on us to let the story of Jesus be heard everywhere we go.

DRIVE IT HOME:
Let me ask you a question: What presents did you open up on Christmas day? What was the coolest thing you received?

Take a few answers.

How many of you, after getting all excited about that present, didn't tell a single person about your gift?

Again, let the kids answer.

There's no way you could keep a great present a secret, could you? If you got a new game system, you'd have to tell your friends. If you got a new bike, you'd want to let the whole neighborhood know it!

We have the greatest news every spoken to share. Jesus is God's Son. He was born on Christmas, and he came to die for our sins. Jesus ascended into Heaven to prepare a place for us, and everyone is welcome who will believe in Christ.

God wants us to share this good news with everyone. He needs all of us to take that command seriously. He wants us to love, to serve, and to tell people that Jesus loves them!

This week I want you all to pray for the courage to share Jesus. Pray for your friends who need Jesus, and ask God to speak to them through you. Don't hide the good story of Jesus. Pray and ask God to give you opportunitites to share that good news and love of Jesus with people you meet this new year!
CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,
Help us to share the story of Jesus.
In Jesus' name, Amen

FINDING CHRISTMAS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:
What was the best thing you received for Christmas?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:
Matthew 1:21
Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:
Play the telephone game with a few New Year's-themed prompts. See how the story changes from the first person to the last.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
Read Matthew 28:18-20

What did Jesus tell his followers to do?

Who did Jesus give the Great Commission to?

What is the good news about Christmas?

What are some ways we can show God's love to others?

Is there a friend you'd like to pray for this week, so they can know Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Help us to show our friends that Jesus loves them.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

FINDING CHRISTMAS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:
What was the best thing you received for Christmas?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:
Matthew 1:21
Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:
Play the telephone game with a few New Year's-themed prompts. See how the story changes from the first person to the last.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
Read Matthew 28:18-20

What did Jesus tell his followers to do?

Why did Jesus give this command to all believers, not just ministers?

What are some ways we can show God's love to others?

How can we show people Jesus loves them with our actions?

Is there a friend you'd like to pray for this week, so they can know Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Help us to show our friends that Jesus loves them.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK

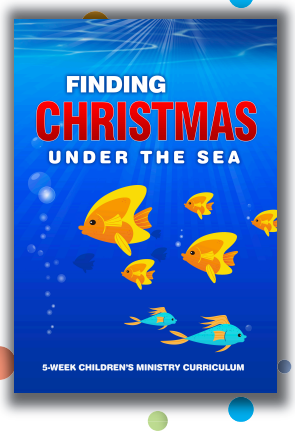
Christmas is when we celebrate the _____ of Jesus.
BIRTH

Jesus died on a _____ and rose from the grave.
CROSS

Jesus gave us the Great _____ before returning to Heaven.
COMMISSION

The Great Commission isn't just for pastors. It's for _____ who believes in Jesus.
EVERYONE

Jesus told us to go and _____ the whole world about him.
TELL



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Finding Christmas Lesson 5

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: SEA SHELLS



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:
If you put an empty shell up to your ear you can hear the sounds of the ocean. Let's start the New Year right, by filling the ears of our friends and families with the good news about Jesus. Matthew 28:18-20 The Great Commission



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:
Share good news with your family every night at the dinner table. What good things happened that day? If the kids are game, have them practice telling you about Jesus as if you were their friend.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:
- What is the Great Commission?
- What did Jesus do for us that is such good news?
- Why does God want us to tell everyone about Jesus?



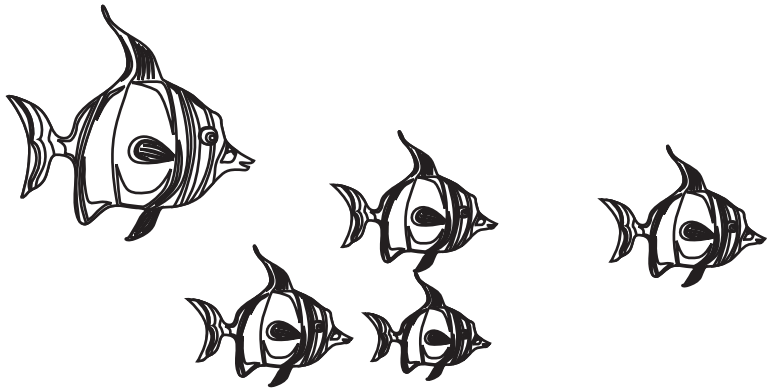
AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:
"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:
When was the last time you shared your faith with someone? Ask God to give you the courage and opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission this coming year, and encourage your kids to do the same. Be a family that shares Jesus with a world that needs Him!



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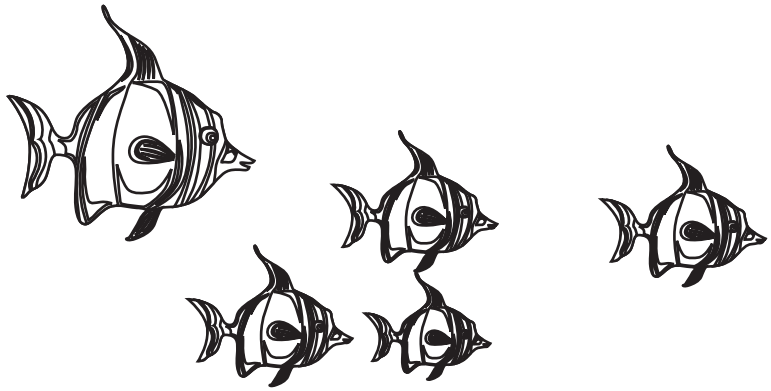

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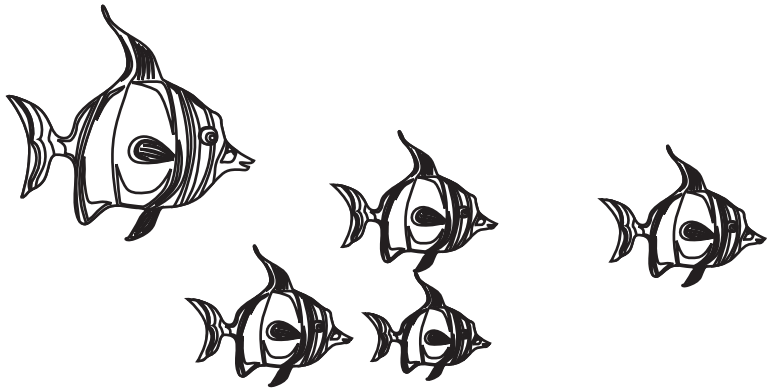

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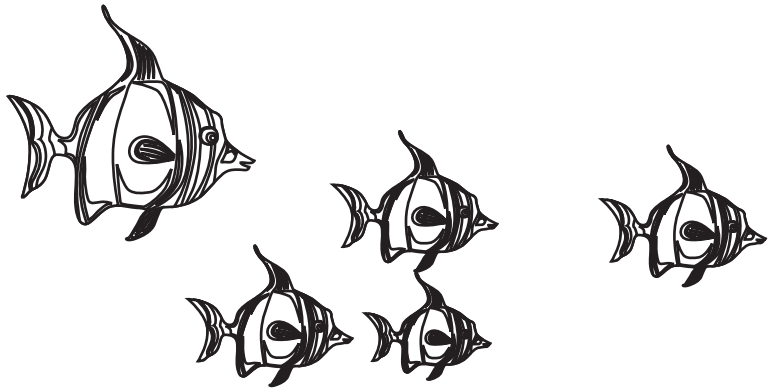

"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." - Matthew 1:21 NIRV

CUT ON DASHED LINE

FINDING CHRISTMAS

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids do a craft or the included coloring sheet with a seashell that they can take to remind themselves that they need to carry the good news of Christmas to the world.

