

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

OCMC Mission Sunday

Primary Lesson: K-5th Grade

Theme: “Go and Make Disciples, Baptizing and Teaching Them”

Lesson Goals:

- **Introduce** the students to the ‘Great Commission’ (Matt. 28:18-20). Explain that mission work is essential to being the Church and obeying Christ’s teaching.
- **Teach** the students through Romans 10:14-15 the reason we send missionaries out into the world and what the message means.
- **Illustrate** modern-day Orthodox mission work with the story of the Jones missionary family and the mission in Kingdom of Tonga.
- **Explain** how beautiful churches “*proclaim, with the eloquent silence of beauty, that God had come to dwell amongst humanity.*” (His Beatitude ANASTASIOS of Albania, *Orthodox Mission, Past, Present and Future*, p.194.)
- **Challenge** students to be involved in missions.

Lesson Overview:

- Opening Prayer.
- Introduce the lesson by explaining that today is OCMC Mission Sunday.
- View together the story of the Jones missionary family and St. George Orthodox Church in Tonga. Read the Script for the slides to the students. Discuss how missionaries are bringing the fullness of faith to the Tongan people.
- Explain that the Tongans are well-prepared to receive the Orthodox faith.
- Challenge your students to be involved by taking a coinbox home and saving to support missions. Brainstorm other ways to serve.

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Lesson Materials:

- Mission Sunday PowerPoint*; Laptop and Projector, if available (if not, print out the lesson as a pdf); Internet access, if available; OCMC video on the Jones family*; Pencil, paper, scissors and glue; Coinboxes and letter for parents; Fill in The Blank Activity; Google Maps of the South Pacific or Google Earth link. See **Additional Resources** (Pg. 8).

*For digital resources of this lesson visit: www.ocmc.org/resources/educational-materials

Lesson Overview

Opening Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, bless our time together to learn of your mission work in the world. Open our minds and hearts to all the beauty and peace found in Your Way of salvation and love. May we walk in Your Way at home and abroad, drawing us and those we encounter ever closer to each other and to you.

Amen.

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Lesson Procedure

Introduce Mission Sunday:

Today is **OCMC Mission Sunday**, recognized and set aside under the **Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States** for all Orthodox churches to focus on this essential practice of the Orthodox faith.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world for a reason. He told how He would save all people and reunite them to God. He gave all the people a commandment to take part in this sacred mission. We will learn two passages from the Bible: (Use memorization with movements to teach the Bible verses, beginning on **Slide 2** of the Mission Sunday PowerPoint.)

1. Matthew 28, known as the 'Great Commission.'
2. Romans 10:14-15.
3. Then we will learn about a modern-day missionary family who was sent to bring the gospel of peace to the Kingdom of Tonga.

Bible Verses

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJ)

"The Great Commission"

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

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Bible Verses (cont...)

Romans 10:14-15 (NKJ)

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 unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Exegesis (How Teachers can interpret the Bible Verses to their students. Simplify as needed.)

Christ did not come to save only a few people. He came to save the whole world! At the Ascension, His parting words to His Church was to complete this work. St. Paul, in Romans, explains why it is necessary to send out missionaries. "*How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?*" Missionaries must be sent to preach if the nations are to come to know Christ. "*How shall they preach unless they are sent?*" - sent by whom? By Jesus, of course, through His Church. Missionaries cannot go on their own. The Church must send, equip, supply, and pray for missionaries to proclaim the gospel of peace.

What does "gospel of peace" mean? The term **εὐαγγελίζω** (ev-an-ge-lí-zo) in the ancient world meant news of conquest. It was a herald coming to say, "*A king has won victory here and is establishing his reign, and this is what he expects.*" We call the good news "the gospel of peace" because the victory comes not with weapons, but with the power of mercy. New Christians in this kingdom are not won with violence but drawn by its beauty, which radiates through the "beautiful feet" of its ambassadors who come to them.

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Tell the Story with Pictures



Begin sharing stories of the Kingdom of Tonga mission from the **OCMC Mission Sunday PowerPoint**, beginning on **slide 6**.

Reference the **Mission Sunday Primary Grade Lesson Script** to describe each image on the slides.

Activity Work Sheet

Complete the **Fill in the Blank Activity** for little ones. Have the students place the images on the blank space where the words from the Bible verse Romans 10:14-15 are missing. Cut out the images so that your students can place them. Answer key is provided.

Take Home Challenge

First, challenge your students to commit to living the Orthodox life as ambassadors of Christ so that the gospel of peace shines through us.

Next, let's pray, asking God to help everyone in the class become involved in His great mission work throughout the US and to the ends of the earth. You may choose to offer your own prayer, or you can use the following:

"God, we pray for your guidance in fulfilling Jesus' final and greatest command to make disciples of all nations. Help us to uncover how to utilize our talents in spreading your love to those who have never heard or accepted the Gospel. Amen."

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Share with your students the following ways they can begin to act as ambassadors for Christ:

Financially: In addition to the Mission Sunday lesson, OCMC includes coinboxes for students to take home. Distribute the coinboxes to each student and encourage them to collect coins and dollars throughout Great Lent to support the immense needs of mission work. Challenge them to give up something during this time that would allow them to set aside money for missions.

<https://www.ocmc.org/serve-from-home/give>

Supportively: Encourage your students to adopt an OCMC Missionary or Missionary Family. Take their prayer card to place in their home icon corner, sign up for their quarterly newsletters, pray for them regularly, and/or send them letters and financial support. Prayer Cards can be downloaded from the missionaries' webpage.

<https://www.ocmc.org/how-we-serve/missionaries/>

Emotionally: Encourage your students to talk with their parents about sending a message to an OCMC Missionary. Start by completing a contact request form for one of the missionaries listed on OCMC's website. Send them an email to express gratitude for their work in spreading the Gospel and bringing people to Christ, and mention that their family will pray for them!

Consider sending a message to the Jones family: jonesfamily@ocmc.org

Hands-on: Learn ways you can help support communities around the world with OCMC. Consider going to the mission field with your family or parish on a mission trip for a few weeks. Contact OCMC to explore future opportunities.

<https://www.ocmc.org/how-we-serve/team-experience>

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Additional Activities

Depending on how much time is left for your Sunday School class, consider completing one of following activities with your students to further their understanding of the lesson.

- **Tour the Tonga Mission (Video)**
- **Locate Tonga on a Map**
- **Feet Washing Activity**
- **Write a Letter to the Jones Family**

See the **Additional Activities** page for the full activity description.

Closing Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

God of truth and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear our prayer for those who do not know You, that they may come to a saving knowledge of the truth and that Your Name may be praised among all peoples of the world.

Sustain, inspire, and enlighten Your servants who bring them the Gospel. Bring fresh vigor to wavering faith; sustain our faith when it is still fragile.

Continually renew missionary zeal in ourselves and in the Church; raise up new missionaries who will follow You to the ends of the world.

Make us witnesses to Your goodness, full of love, strength, and faith for Your glory and the salvation of the entire world.

Through the prayers of St. Paul, St. Photini, Ss. Cyril and Methodios, St. Kosmas, St. Innocent, St. Nicholas of Japan, and all the missionary saints, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

~ Prayer for Mission (Printable doc. available)

FILL IN THE BLANK ACTIVITY

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACH ANSWER KEY



¹⁴How then shall they _____ on Him in whom they have not _____?



And how shall they _____ in Him of whom they have not _____?



And how shall they _____ without a _____?



¹⁵And how shall they _____ unless they are sent?



As it is written: "How beautiful are the _____ of those who preach the



_____ of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

FILL IN THE BLANK ACTIVITY

ACTIVITIES FOR LITTLE ONES

The follow Bible verses are from Romans 10:14-15. Place the images in the place where the missing text is to complete the verse.

¹⁴How then shall they _____ on Him in whom they have not _____?

And how shall they _____ in Him of whom they have not _____?

And how shall they _____ without a _____?

¹⁵And how shall they _____ unless they are sent?

As it is written: "How beautiful are the _____ of those who preach the

_____ of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"



FILL IN THE BLANK ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY CUTOUT IMAGES - ENOUGH FOR 8 STUDENTS

