

The Great Commission

God is our Redeemer / Saviour, Life and Peace

Spiritual Awareness: God is Saviour

Jesus has commanded us to go into all the world, taking His message of redemption to the lost. Who are the lost?...those who do not acknowledge Jesus as their Saviour. As Christians we believe that other religions and cults are derived from the tower of Babel dispersion. Each contains some truth depending on how far they have deviated from Yahweh's revelation and instructions. Jesus alone is the truth.

What happens to those who have never heard the Gospel? Romans 1:20 tells us that the very creation speaks of the one true God, so that people are without excuse. God will judge everyone on the basis of obedience to revealed truth.

Don Richardson, in his book, 'Eternity in their hearts', explains that within the cultural foundations of every people group, there are parallels with Christianity. He believes that these parallels can be used to as a starting point for sharing Gospel.

Our response to 'God is our Redeemer'

Because God is my redeemer I will...

Ask Jesus to forgive me for my sin

Invite Him to live in my life

Make Jesus Lord of my life

Live with Him forever

Thank Him for what He did on the cross

Thank Him that I am His child

Tell others that they can have eternal life

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Love): God loved the world that He sent His Son

Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Truth): Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life

Themes for Christian Studies 7, (Truth): Those who seek the truth will find it

Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Peace): God is a reconciler

Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Servant): Spreading the Good News

Information on global missions

Operation World, 21st Century Edition, by Patrick Johnstone & Jason Mandryk
www.wec-int.org

Biblical references

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20 - The Great Commission

Romans 10:14; Ephesians 6:15 - Feet to spread the Good News

John 14:6-7 - Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life

1 Corinthians 7:23 - We were bought with a price

Romans 5:10 - We were God's enemies, but He made us His friends through His death on the cross.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.
Romans 1:20 - God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen.
Ecclesiastes 3:11 - He has set eternity in the hearts of men.
Acts 13 & 14 - Paul and Barnabas spread the Good News
Acts 16 - Timothy, Paul and Silas
Acts 17 - Paul in Athens - 'to the Unknown God'
Acts 19 - Paul in Ephesus

Key Questions

What did Jesus ask us to do in Matthew 28:16-20?
Why are other religions different to Christianity?
Where can we go to share the Gospel?
What is the best way to share the Gospel?
What happens to people who have never heard the Gospel?

Objectives

Students will

- describe and illustrate the wide variety of roles, mission groups fulfill and explain the requirements of a missionary
- categorize some of the major belief systems on earth - Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, tribal, Marxist
- study the geography of countries in which missionaries are currently working.
- research the work of famous missionaries or the past
- identify the most effective ways of presenting the Gospel to particular groups

Activities

- research statistics on world missions, world religions and needs of particular nations.
- colour a map of the world according to predominant religions.
- interview mission representatives.
- pray for specific missionary endeavours.
- read Don Richardson's story, '*Peace Child*', (*Themes for Christian Studies 6, Peace*). This is an amazing story of his experience in Irian Jaya.
- discuss ways in which we can bring the Gospel, using their cultural foundations as a starting point.
- read the story, *A King Discovers the True God*, (*Themes for Christian Studies 7, Truth*), and discuss the cultural parallel with Christianity in this case.
- read Acts 17, and explain why Paul decided to present the Gospel by beginning with 'the Unknown God'.
- compare Christianity with other religions.
- read the story of a Hindu who became a Christian, (*How Can I Find the True God, Themes for Christian Studies 7, Truth*).
- present a project on a country of choice and describe the work of missionaries.