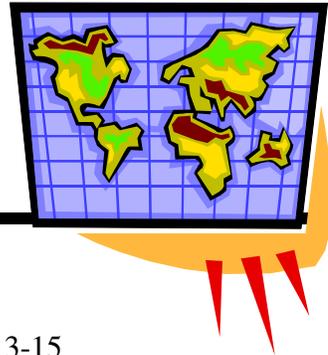


Get Ready!**Celebrating the Good News**

By: Judy Myers

**Text**

Matthew 9:35-38, 29:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; John 4:35; Romans 10:13-15

Key Quest Verse

“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.’” Mark 16:15-16 (NIV)

Bible Background

“The Greek word translated ‘gospel’ can mean either ‘a reward for bringing good news’ or simply ‘good news.’ In the New Testament, the ultimate good news is that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Savior of the world. He has come to save people from sin and restore them to God. Christ has commissioned His followers to spread the good news about him throughout the world. This involves both the verbal proclamation of gospel truth and the demonstration of gospel reality in the lives of believers. Both can happen in a variety of ways, through preaching and teaching, through Christian worship and daily disciplines of spiritual life, and through works of mercy and programs of compassion that meet basic human needs.”

Taken from The Word in Life Study Bible 1996, NKJV, Thomas Nelson Publishing

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: There is a great need for Church of God people to go into the mission fields of the world.

Feel: It is an honor to be chosen by God to share his message of salvation to a lost and dying world.

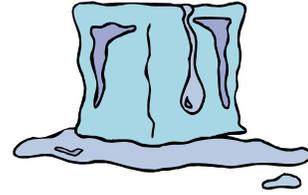
Do: Pray for missionaries who travel to foreign countries and for our common mission as Christians.

Leader's Devotion

John 14:15 – “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

On April 20, 1999 twelve students and one teacher lost their lives in a senseless tragedy at Columbine High School in Colorado. I continue to be touched by the story of one of the students, Rachel Joy Scott. In a book written by her parents called, “Rachel’s Tears,” they share one story that Rachel wrote about an experience she had while working at a local Subway shop. The story is called, *Gloves of Conviction*. In the story Rachel reveals a time when God nudged her to witness to a woman who came into the shop shortly after it opened one cold, dreary Sunday morning. She appeared to be very poor and perhaps homeless. She asked to come inside the shop to wait for the bus that seemed to be late. Rachel revealed to her that it was Sunday and that the busses didn’t run that day. The woman was very troubled by that and asked to sit in a booth and try to figure out what she could do. Rachel tells that she felt God telling her to fix the lady something to eat and share his love with her but she didn’t do that. About an hour later an apparently well-to-do lady came in for sandwiches and seeing the woman at the corner booth asked if she had eaten anything. Rachel revealed that she hadn’t and so the other lady ordered a sandwich for her. Rachel gladly made it without charge. Later, after the well-to-do lady took the poor lady with her, Rachel asked God to forgive her for not using her opportunity to witness. She felt God told her that the woman who needed Him was being told about Him even then and though she had blown the opportunity. She felt He told her that when she didn’t speak with the boldness that He had given her there were two losers, both the other person and herself. She promised through that experience to boldly share God’s love at every opportunity and did so for the remainder of her short life. How often do we miss out on the opportunity to share God’s love and gift of eternal life through Christ with those we know who need the love and encouragement that we have to share? In neglecting our opportunities, we are missing out on the joy of seeing other lives changed because we gave our time to be God’s voice of love. Ask God to give you the boldness to speak out with His love each day this week. Show Him your love by doing what Jesus commanded.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Paper plates, ice cubes, pieces of yarn or string, box of salt

This morning I have a paper plate, ice cube, and piece of yarn for each of you. Your job is to lift the ice cube off the plate without touching it or without tying a knot in your yarn. You may have a few minutes to discuss this with other class members to try and figure out this assignment and then we will see how successful you can be.

Have a paper plate and ice cube for yourself. Curl the yarn on top of your ice cube and then add about $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of salt to the top of it. Let it set while you slowly and quietly count to 20.

Have the classmates each try their ideas if they came up with some. **This is an almost impossible task to solve, however, I have a special ingredient that will make it possible to lift the ice cube without touching it and without tying my yarn. Would you like to see? Lift the ice with the yarn. Sometimes we are given jobs that just seem impossible but with God's Holy Spirit leading us, we can accomplish them. In our story today we will find out about a big assignment that has been given to each of us.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: None

This morning we are going to admire each other's feet. I want everyone to take off your shoes and hold your feet out for all to see. We will take a vote on who has the most beautiful feet. Do you usually think of the feet as being a pretty part of your body? I don't! However, there is a time that we are told people have beautiful feet. Let's listen carefully to our story and see if we can figure out when that time is.

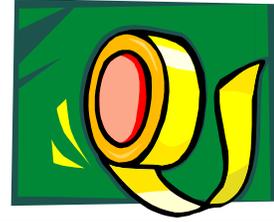
GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

In Matthew 9 we learn an important thing about Jesus. We learn that He had compassion on the people all around Him and saw the need for their salvation. As He sees the masses, He compares them to a harvest field with grain that is waiting and ready to be picked. In the John passage He again stresses that the harvest is ready. But sadly, He says that there are few that are willing to go into the harvest field and bring in the ripe harvest. Jesus taught the people in terms that they would understand. Using the field as a familiar object, He was pointing out the fact that there were many people who were searching for answers that would only be found as they were brought to an understanding of the Kingdom of God and salvation through God's Son. Jesus knew the reason for His birth was to bring salvation and pardon to the lost of the world. Have the class look up Luke 19:10. What does this verse tell us? It tells us that "The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." But, Jesus also knew that He was not to remain on the earth forever and so it was important that He teach others to continue His work. He left his instructions to His followers in what is often called the Great Commission. Let's look at it in Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-16. What exactly do these instructions have to say? Look carefully at the passages discussing the different divisions of the text. First Jesus reminded them that He had been given all authority in heaven and in earth to give them orders. Then He said to them, "Go." This is not an optional word – it is a command. He didn't tell them, "if you would like to do so, witness about the kingdom." He said very clearly – GO. Then He told them to make disciples of all nations. A disciple is one who walks and talks with the leader. Jesus is telling them to come alongside the ones they go to and invest time in them taking them along with them, studying with them and building them up in their Christian walk. His next instruction is to baptize them and to teach them to observe all that He commanded. They were not only to bring them to a point of acceptance and baptism, but they were to continue working with them until they fully knew and understood what they were to be doing. That would include preparing them to "Go and make disciples." Throughout the generations, decade after decade, men and women are to follow the instructions that Jesus left. To conclude the orders, Jesus gave a very special promise, He would be with them until the end of the age or until He returned as their King. His presence would be felt through the power of the Holy Spirit that would come to assist them in carrying out what he had just commanded them to do. Read the Great Commission as found in Mark 16:15-16. In Mark we see that after the Word has been shared with those who have not heard it before, it is up to the hearer to make a choice as to whether or not they will accept Christ. Jesus said we were to take the message to the world but it was up to those who heard it what they would do with it. Today the world is still full of many men and women who have not yet heard enough about Jesus Christ to make a decision as to whether to accept him or reject Him. There is still a need for men and women to be obedient to Jesus' last command and go out into the world. Will you go? Will you or do you have beautiful feet?

Go!**A Yard of Nickels****PROJECT**

Materials: Heavy ribbon or poster board, double stick carpet tape

Quest Connection

We are a nation very blessed with material things. Other countries where we go to serve are not as fortunate as we are. There are always small items that need to be purchased to help in the ministries of our brethren in other countries. Sometimes there is a need for Bibles, sometimes for songbooks, sometimes for crayons, sometimes for vitamins or many other items. To help meet these needs, people here can give money to be used for these items.

Procedure: Cut the ribbon or poster board in 1 yard sections. If you prefer, you can tape them together along a wall of your classroom, or circle the room or however you wish to promote this. The object is to collect nickels and tape them side by side on the ribbon or poster board and see how many yards of nickels you can collect. To help you in knowing what it takes, 1 foot is 14 nickels and is worth \$.70. 1 yard is 42 nickels worth \$2.10, 50 yards equal 2,100 nickels for a total of \$105.00, and 100 yards (the length of a football field) takes 4,200 nickels and is worth \$210.00. You might wish to involve your entire church in this project with the goal of collecting the length of a football field in nickels. Money collected can be used for a mission project in your local area or can be mailed to the Church of God General Conference for missions or a project of your choice. If you would like suggestions, please contact Judy Myers at 6898 E. Brick Rd., Oregon, IL 61061 or 815-732-2751 or jmlhi@aol.com for current needs.

Close

Prayer: Dear Father, Thank you for the way you have blessed us with material wealth. Help us to feel compassion on those with less and do our part in helping meet their needs. Amen.

Go!

A Missionary Is...

OBJECT LESSON

Materials: Chalk board and chalk.



Quest Connection

Procedure: Draw a stick figure of a ship with a stick person on board appearing to wave. A **Missionary is a SENT ONE** – have someone read John 20:21 and someone else read Mark 16:15. **God sent Jesus to minister to the people on earth, to love them and to die for them. Missionaries today go to people who need to be loved and need to know Christ. They go in answer to the call of God on their heart. Secondly, a missionary is a LENT ONE.** Draw two stick persons shaking or holding hands. **The missionary who goes is very much loved by his/her relatives and his/her church family. The church family is the one who sees their potential and recommends them for service and then as they go, they commission them for the task. That means that they are sending them to represent their church family. The person who is sent by their church is a person who is already showing that they can be involved in the Lord’s work. They do that by being very involved in the ministry of their local church. When God calls the person to the mission field, the local church LENDS them even though they will be greatly missed. The local church also supports them with finances, prayer and letters of encouragement.** Have a student read Acts 13:1-4. **A missionary is also a BENT ONE.** Draw a stick person kneeling in prayer. Have someone read Ephesians 6:18-20 and another Philippians 4:6-7. **Missionaries cannot do the work alone. They must realize that they can only do it with God’s help. They know that they will face many problems and dangers but they also know that when they rely on God that he will give them the wisdom to do his work and deal with the problems that come along. It is through prayer that they are able to feel peace even in the middle of trials. Finally, a missionary is a SPENT ONE.** Draw a bent stick person. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, 2 Corinthians 7:5-6 and Philippians 3:10. **When the missionary gives fully of himself/herself, they have little time for leisure activities and can become very tired. Sometimes they even become ill and suffer exhaustion. Through that, they can come to know Christ even better as they understand the suffering that He went through on their behalf. Missionaries have to fully trust in the Lord for their strength. Missionaries are very special people that God has called to serve Him. They willingly leave their homes and families to be obedient to His call. They often spend years learning a new language, learning about the people and the country that they are going to live in, and in studying God’s Word so that they can communicate it with the lost.**

Close

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you so much for the men and women through the ages who have left the comforts of their homes to go to a foreign land to tell the lost about you and your Son. Please bless them and keep them safe. Amen.

Go!

Who Needs To Know

Object Lesson



Materials: Bible, clear bowl, picture of Jesus mounted on cardboard and cut out, black wax beans, pinto beans, kidney beans, navy beans, small lima beans and lentils. (Various colors of Jelly Beans could be used in place of the beans.)

Quest Connection

Jesus sent his followers to witness to the lost of the world. Just who is it that needs to hear that message? Who do missionaries take that message to? This bowl is going to represent our world. There are **black-skinned people** in the world who need Jesus. They might represent the people in Africa, Haiti, or people here in our own country. They are important to God. He sent His Son, Jesus, so that they might find salvation. (Add black wax beans to the bowl as you speak.) In our world there are also people who have **brown skin**. They are people who live in India. They also need to learn about Jesus. Many people in India are Hindu. Hinduism is idolatrous with 200 million holy cows and about 33 million other gods. They need to hear about the one true God of heaven and His Son, Jesus. (Add the pinto beans.) These beans (add kidney beans) represent the American Indians and some of the people on the islands of the sea. They, too, need Christ. If we cannot go to them, we can give offerings to send others who will take Christ's message to them. These beans represent the Anglo-Saxon peoples—Americans, Britons, Germans. (Add navy beans.) All white races need Jesus because the Bible tells us in Acts 4:12 that "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." This small bean (add small Lima beans) can represent the Chinese people. There are millions of people in China. Many years ago the Chinese government kicked out missionaries who had gone to tell them about Jesus. The government didn't want them to have religion. Some people there worship Buddha. That is against the one true God. If we can't go to live with the Chinese and tell them of Jesus, we can still pray for them. These stand for the Japanese, Koreans and people of other islands. (Add lentils.) These people also need Christ. All nations need to hear the gospel message so that they can make a choice on whether or not they will follow Jesus. Will you be one to go and tell them? (Stand the picture of Jesus in the center of the bowl.) Christ died for everyone, no matter the color of their skin. In our world today, we have a mix of all kinds and colors of people. We need to show them our love and give them this special message, Read John 3:16 together.

Close

Let's read again from Galatians 3:26-28. As we go about our daily lives we need to remember that we are all equal in the eyes of God. It is important for us as his followers to develop attitudes of love for all.

Go!**Danger Ahead****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Three danger or caution signs made from poster board

Quest Connection

Procedure: Show the signs of your choice and explain what they warn about and the dangers that can happen if people ignore them. Then continue with these thoughts.

A good missionary must take seriously the warning from Mark 16:16b which says “whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (NIV) The Bible teaches that the “wages of sin is death.” In life today, we are often faced with dangerous situations and we appreciate being warned of them so that we can decide whether we will ignore the warning or listen to it. That is the way that it is with the world. They need to be warned about the sins that separate them from God and hear enough to decide whether to follow him or ignore the warning. Good missionaries are like warning signs to those that they serve. They tell the truth in love. They tell the people that all are sinners and that all need Jesus. They explain to them the need to repent of their sins, to accept Jesus as their Savior, to be baptized and then to walk in a God fearing way. Sometimes they may need to help someone learn to plant a crop or irrigate a field, sometimes they may have to teach someone to read, sometimes they may have to express lots of love but these are only a part of their job. The most important part and the one that they always keep foremost in mind is the job of winning the lost to Christ. They are the signs that point to danger in following sin. And they let people know that if they go right ahead in the old sinful ways they will die. Good missionaries are good signs.

Close

We need to see the dangers that lie ahead if we do things that are against the commands the Bible provides us. Look in your Bibles for Romans 6:23. Have a student read it. What does this verse tell us will happen if we do not follow the warning signs? That is correct, we will die. So we must turn from our sins and accept the gift of God, which is eternal life. One way that we can truly show love to our lost friends is to point them in the right way and to warn them when they are doing something that will eventually lead to eternal death.

Go!**Prayer Wheel****CRAFT**

Materials: Two circles of poster board and a paper brad per student.

Quest Connection

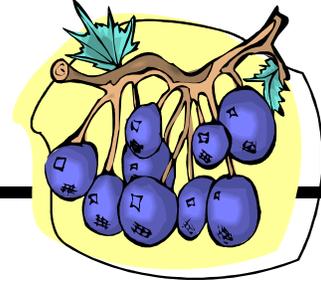
Prayer is a very important need of those serving on a mission field. We are going to make a prayer wheel to help us remember to pray for missionaries and for national leaders.

Procedure: Cut two 8-inch circles per student from poster board. Divide one circle into 8 equal wedges. Have the students write one of the areas of the world that missionaries are working in on each wedge. These include: Africa, Haiti, India, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, and Russia. On the second circle, divide as with the first circle and cut one wedge out. Place this circle over the first and fasten together in the center with the paper brad. The student can rotate the top circle and pray for each country as it appears.

Close

Remember this week to pray for missionaries and for the national leaders in the countries on our prayer wheel each day.

Go!



Can We Eat It?

FOOD

Materials: Lettuce, tomato, orange, apple, banana, glass of milk, glass of water, authentic food from another country (two suggested recipes in Resources)

Quest Connection

It is very important when going on a mission trip to know what foods are safe to eat and what foods should not be eaten.

Procedure: Put the food items suggested on the table. **Today I have a few items that are often served in other countries. We will discuss whether or not it is safe to eat them. First, I have some lettuce and a tomato. Many countries add lettuce and a tomato slice to the sandwiches that they serve. Do you think it is okay to eat it? Give a chance to answer. Actually, when in a foreign country it is not good to eat lettuce and tomato put on your plate or food. Many countries of the world have unsafe drinking water and when they wash the lettuce and the tomato, they are covering them with germs and bacteria. It only takes a drop of water to make people ill and that can ruin their mission experience. Now lets talk about the orange, the apple and the banana. What of these do you think you could eat? Give a chance for answers. The apple shouldn't be eaten as it would have been washed in the water. But, the orange and the banana have a peel that is removed and that usually will make them safe to eat. Now lets look at the glasses of milk and water. As we have said, water is usually not safe to drink in other countries so we can rule water out right away. In fact, when you go to another country on a mission trip, you should not even run your toothbrush under the water to clean it as that can make you very ill. Mission teams bring their own purified water or purchase it in the country they visit and use it to clean their toothbrushes and drink. Milk is usually not a good idea to drink either in another country unless you go to the market and see that it is pasteurized. Then, it is safe to drink. These are just a few of the things that a missionary learns before they make a trip to another country. It is good to go prepared so that you do not get ill. Medical care in most countries is not very good and hard to get. Now, I have a food treat to share with you from (Mexico or Russia).**

Close

Prayer: Thank you God for people who can help missionaries and mission team members know how to eat safely in other countries. Thank you for the good water and food that we can enjoy here in our country. Amen.

RESOURCES

Foreign Recipes (Desserts)

Sopapilla (serves 8-10)

Mexico

4 cups white flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

4 tablespoons Crisco

**1 ½ cups lukewarm water
oil for frying**

Mix first 3 ingredients with fork. Cut in Crisco until distributed evenly. Add water and mix with fork, then hands, until dough is smooth like bread dough. Let rise in covered bowl in a warm place for 20 minutes. Then roll out to 1/8 inch thickness. Cut in 3-4 inch squares or triangles. Use the excess strips to test the hot oil. The oil should be just beginning to smoke and about 1 ½-2 inches deep. Turn each sopapilla just after it begins to turn color and bubble less. Drain on paper towel and roll in powdered sugar.

(If you make this recipe in class, using a deep electric frying pan would work well.)

Whipped Cream with Fruits

Russia

7 ounces of whipping cream

1 tablespoon powdered sugar

small amount of grated lemon peel (opt.)

fresh blueberries (or well drained canned fruit)

Rinse blueberries and dry. Whip cream until thick and then add powdered sugar and grated peel. In deep glasses, put whipped cream and fruit. Serve cooled.

GLOSSARY OF MISSION TERMS

Call—a strong conviction that God wants a person to serve him in some specific way and/or place. This does not usually come through some exotic experience but through prayerful investigation of the possibilities for mission.

Church planting—the process of beginning local Christian congregations generally in areas where the gospel has not been previously received.

Commissisoning—the laying on of hands and prayer for the appointee prior to his/her leaving for the field. This is done in the appointees home church.

Crosscultural communication—the way people of one society convey ideas to those of another society who differ in such areas as language, values, thought forms and behavior.

Crosscultural evangelism—communicating the good news of Jesus Christ across cultural barriers. Sometimes expressed in these terms: E-1 is evangelism to non-Christians in the same culture (Ex. American to non-believing American); E-2 is evangelism that is crosscultural but able to build on certain overlapping areas, (Ex. Korean churches planted in America); and E-3 is evangelism from one culture to a totally different one (Ex. American to Russia).

Culture—the integrated system of learned patterns of behavior, ideas and products characteristic of a society.

Culture shock—the experience of a person who is entering a society very different from the one to which he or she is accustomed. It is sometimes characterized by confusion, physical illness, insecurity, fear or defensiveness.

Discipling—building up believers and training them to witness to others.

Evangelism—communicating to others the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Enlisting a support team (formerly called deputation)—the activity/ministry of missionaries or missionary appointees through which they establish a relationship with sending churches and individuals for prayer and financial support.

Foreign missions— evangelism outside of one's culture

Holistic—emphasizing the needs of the whole person (spiritual, physical, intellectual, social and emotional).

Home Assignment (formerly called furlough) —a period during which the missionary returns to his sending country to gain new perspective, improve skills and renew contact with supporters.

Home Missions—evangelism within the confines of one's culture.

GLOSSARY OF MISSION TERMS

House churches—small groups of Christians, usually with non-professional leaders, who meet together as congregations in an individual's house or apartment.

Indigenous church—a church which reflects the culture in which it is located, administering and supporting its own life and outreach.

Mission—Any ministry for which the purpose is to fulfill the great commission by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and the things concerning the Kingdom of God through evangelism, discipling, church planting, and church development.

Mission agency—an organization which furthers crosscultural evangelism and the establishing of new churches by planning strategy for evangelizing some part or parts of the world and recruiting, training and sending missionaries.

Missionary—a supported worker who is involved in the expansion of the church in a culture other than his or her own. One sent to propagate religion. A career or professional missionary is one who chooses to make a long-term commitment to serve. Short-term missionaries are individuals who serve for 3 months to 2 years. Summer missionaries do not join a mission agency but serve as volunteers for several weeks with the purpose of learning about missions firsthand while giving their assistance. * See note at bottom

Missionary Appointee—one who has been accepted by the mission board for service. During this time all paperwork is done, support is raised and serious preparations for departure to the field are made.

Missionary Candidate—one who has made known their desire to serve as a missionary and is studying and going through the steps in training.

Missions—the activities of a sending church through which it seeks to communicate the gospel across cultural boundaries with a view of establishing churches that will evangelize. This is reaching out to persons in the name of Jesus Christ beyond the ministry area of the local church. (See definitions for Home Missions and Foreign Missions.)

Nationals—the people of another country. More appropriate than using the term native.

Nonprofessional missionaries (also called vocational witnesses or tentmakers)—individuals who support themselves in secular, salaried positions abroad with the primary purposes of evangelizing, discipling and planting churches.

World Christian—One who sees the world through the eyes of God and desires to be a part of his plan for bringing all peoples back to Him.

UNSCRAMBLE/WORD SEARCH

First unscramble the words and then find them in the word search.

Nso _____

Hatfre _____

Sujes _____

Og _____ (2)

Psilcedis _____

Ointnas _____

Esevible _____

Rtihyatuo _____

Mena _____

Devsa _____ (2)

Terha _____

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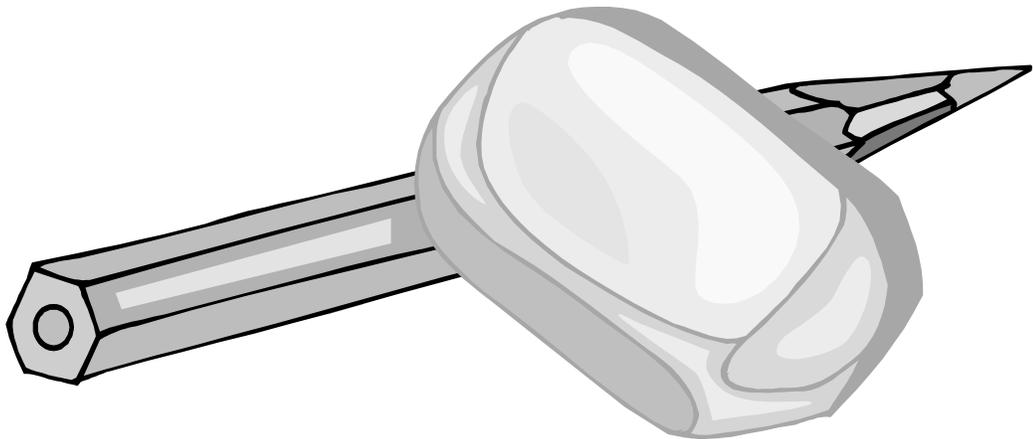
T S E L P I C S I D
E A R T H R E N J P
A S O N E V P O E R
C T R H E G A I S E
H Y T I R O H T U A
R A L N D E V A S C
F E C O M M A N D H
B T G B E D E V A S
M U B A P T I Z E D
H E A V E N E M A N

As believers in Christ we are all needed to spread the good news about His life, His death, and His resurrection and promise to come again.

Sometimes it is difficult to understand how or where to start.

Today, take a moment to write down a prayer asking God to help you learn how to better share the news of His Son to all the world...

God wants to use you, don't be afraid to ask Him today for an opportunity to be used!



JESUS SAID...

Unscramble the words in the globe and write them below the picture.



Five horizontal lines for writing the unscrambled words.

Mark 16:15-16 (NIV)