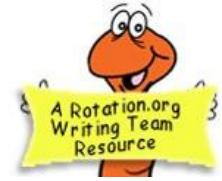


Disciple Road Signs Packet

for Rotation.org's Great Commission and Ascension of Jesus Art Workshop

Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:1-11



The following is a guided discussion and art activity. See the lesson plan for additional details, adaptations, and extra signs.

Opening: Sign Identification Exercise

We pass by **Road Signs** every day. What do road signs do for us? They are there to guide us and keep us safe. They are there to help us when we're confused or lost. They promise that if you "go this way" you will safely get to where you want to go. Road signs are instructions and they are also like promises. "*If you slow down, you'll be safe.*"

Below are several familiar roads signs. As we look at each one together, share with the class what the sign is telling us...what instructions it is giving, and if you follow it—what "promise" it might be making to you.



Notice that signs use simple shapes, few words, easy to read symbols and certain colors to give their instructions.

As you draw signs in the next activity, keep this in mind!

Connecting the signs to the Great Commission and Ascension Stories

After his resurrection from the tomb, Jesus appeared several times to his disciples and too many other followers. For 40 days after his resurrection, he would appear and teach them. Then at the end of the 40 days, it was time for his physical presence, *his body*, to leave the earth. We call this “leaving” event “the Ascension” because he ascended or “rose” into the heavens until his disciples could no longer see him. Before his body ascended he gave his disciples an important set of instructions and a very big promise.



First, Jesus gave his disciples final instructions about what to do after his body was no longer there to lead them.

We call these final instructions “The Great Commission.” A Commission is a “mission” that you are asked to go on—a special job. We could call The Great Commission the “The Great Road Signs” because Jesus’ final instructions told the disciples where to go and what to do.

Second, Jesus gave his disciples a very special promise that he was not leaving them alone—that only his body was leaving them. According to Matthew 28:20, Jesus ends his instructions by promising, “I will be with you always.” He also made a second promise. According the Book of Acts, just before he ascended into heaven, Jesus promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to comfort, guide, and protect the disciples. (According to our understanding of the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one and the same. So this also means that Jesus was *in effect* promising HIS spirit to guide them.)

Here are the “signs” Jesus gave his disciples, and his promise. He used words, and in a minute, we’re going to turn them into road signs!

Matthew 28:16-20

All Authority on heaven and earth has been given to me
Go and make disciples
Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Teach them to observe (obey) all that I have commanded you
And lo, I am with you always, even to the close of the age.



Acts 1: 3-9

After his suffering, Jesus presented himself to the disciples and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (and when the) Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.



Let's imagine the Great Commission as a set of Road Signs that Jesus gave to his disciples.

What do you think Jesus might be telling a disciple like YOU with these two signs?



*Go and, Go to, Start, Begin, Do, Make
Go for, Go with, Go towards*



*What does a disciple stop doing so they can do something else?
What does a disciple need to stop doing?*

After discussing the above two signs, draw your own versions of "Go" and "Stop" signs Jesus might want his disciples to see and follow.



The Great Commission Road Sign Project

Your teacher will assign you one of the following verses from the Great Commission on the next page, for you to *make a sign about*. Remember that the shape and color of your sign is the first thing people will see. You want your sign to be clear, simple, and quickly recognize along the road. Include only a minimum number of words and simple images. Write your scripture verse below the sign and don't forget to 'sign' your work!

Matthew 28:16-20

1. "All Authority on heaven and earth has been given..." to Jesus.
2. "Go and make disciples." (How do you "make" a disciple?)
3. "Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (What's colors and symbols do we use in baptism? Part of baptism's meaning is that we welcome others to join the family of God.)
4. Teach them to observe (obey) all that I have commanded you.
5. And lo, I am with you always, even to the close of the age.

In addition to the many signs found in this packet, here is a collection of sign shapes, colors, and wording to spur your creativity...





My verse from the Great Commission: _____

Matthew 28

I Wonder....

What could these signs “secretly” mean to those who follow Jesus?



The Jesus Signs Game (Optional Closing)

Place the following four signs (see below) around the room. Say: When I toss this giant dice** you are to run to one of the signs and stop by it. If the sign you are standing by matches the dice roll, then all of you standing there will have to answer a question about that sign.

For the Teacher

**You can substitute a spinner for dice if you prefer. The point is to give them an exciting second or two run to one of the signs. The dice is a square cardboard box covered in white paper. Draw the four signs on the sides of the dice. On the remaining two sides, write “boys” and “girls.” If “boys” or “girls” comes up, roll the dice one more time until one of the signs comes up on it, and then have all the boys or girls standing by that sign answer a question about their sign. Adjust rules and gameplay to class needs.

Questions to ask about the four signs:

Stop Sign

Name something a disciple should always try to STOP and find the time to do. (Prayer? Worship? Comfort? Protect?)

Name something bad in the world that Jesus wants to see stopped or ended.

Name a bad attitude or bad habit of yours that you need to stop.

Go Sign

Name a group in your school or community that needs people like you to reach out to them with compassion and friendship.

Name something our church does that you like to “go to.”

Name something you need to START doing that would help you get to know Jesus and his word better.

Do Not Enter Sign

Name something a disciple should never say to someone.

Name something a disciple should never do if they are trying to obey Jesus.

Parking Sign

Name someone in your family that you need to “pull over” and spend more quality time with.

Name something in your life that is taking too much time away from church and family and needs “parked.”