

# **THEME: News of Jesus to the World**

## **LOOKING BACK**

- What was the most important thing you did or heard from the last session?

## **CONNECT**

### **Being Sent Out**

#### **Resources**

Bibles, "I Have, Who Has?" Game Pages (see separate pages), scissors, highlighters, pens, notecards

#### **Icebreaker Activity - The Nations**

**Things to Prepare:** Print the page for the "I Have, Who Has?" game and cut it into strips.

#### **Activity – "I Have, Who Has?":**

Share the five strips of paper for the "I Have, Who Has?" game with everyone. Ask someone to start by reading out what is on their paper. Then, they will cycle through until they get back to the one who started reading.

When you have read through them all, work together to highlight key words related to the nations of the world in each of the five scriptures. You may need to read a bit more of the context of each passage if you are not sure. (If working in different groups, have each group share what they have highlighted.)

Work together to put the five scriptures in chronological order as they appear in the Bible.

#### **Discuss**

- As we look at the five scriptures in chronological order, what is the theme that stands out the most? The theme of nations. (This is so important to God that it runs through the Bible's storyline.)
- Who are these nations? The nations are all the people groups of the world other than the Jews.
- Sometimes, the Bible refers to people of the nations as Gentiles. In God's eyes, there are two main groups of people: Jews and Gentiles. He loves them both and wants to bless all people. Hands up if you are a Jew. Hands up if you are a Gentile.
- A long time ago, God chose one man to become the Father of a large family and then a nation, the Jewish people. God blessed this people and made a special promise that the Jews would be a blessing to all the other nations of the earth. What was the name of this man? Abraham. The promise God made to him is called The Abrahamic Covenant.
- Jesus also showed God's love for the nations, especially when He gave the Great Commission to His apostles. What did Jesus ask His followers to do? Jesus wants His followers to take His message of love and salvation to all the nations, making disciples.
- This focus on the nations began with Abraham and continued with Jesus. How are Abraham and Jesus connected in this storyline? Jesus is part of Abraham's family. It is through Jesus that God's promised blessing goes from the Jewish people to the nations.

# TRUTH TO KNOW

## Faith Focus: The Prophetic

### Introduction

We want to help you know the Truth, and we are going to do our best to tell you what is true, but you don't just need to take our word. You need to read it in the Bible for yourself. So, we will open the Bible and read the Truth each time we meet. This week's "Truth to Know" is found in **Matthew 24:14**.

Did you know all nations must hear the good news about Jesus before He can come back?

### Background to This Bible Passage

**Matthew 24** opens with Jesus and His disciples. They have just left the temple, and Jesus is telling them it will be destroyed one day. They walked up to the Mount of Olives, and Jesus' disciples wanted to know more about the signs of His return and the end of the age. Jesus began to tell them about the signs that will come before He returns to the earth. We have learned about some of these signs already in Stage 1 of IN:Tribe, including deception, lawlessness, and people groups rising up against other people groups.

### The Unfolding Story – Your Interactive Teaching

Read **Matthew 24:14**.

In **Matthew 24:14**, Jesus gives a clear signal for us to know when the end of this age is very near. He explains that the Gospel (this message of good news about Jesus) must first be taken all around the world to every nation and people group.

This is the Great Commission, the command from Jesus, written in **Matthew 28:18-20**, that we heard about in the Icebreaker Activity. Jesus wants His followers to go to all parts of the earth to tell people about Him and help them become followers, too.

On another occasion, on the Mount of Olives, Jesus had been crucified, resurrected, and on the earth for 40 days in His resurrected body. Now, it was time for Him to ascend to Heaven.

- Can you guess what He told His disciples to do just before ascending into the sky? *He told them to take the good news about Him to all the nations. We will look at this more closely in our activity to follow.*

This telling of the Gospel to the world has been going on actively since the time of Jesus, and now nearly every people group or nation has heard about Him.

We know that Jesus is returning soon because He told us that once all nations have heard about Him, the end of this present age will come. Everyone has a role in this commission. Be thinking about what is most important for sharing the news about Jesus.

### Activity Suggestion – Bring Good News!

**Aim:** To consider what is most needed when bringing the good news of Jesus to people.

**Things to Prepare:** Prepare two notecards. Write “**Acts 1:8**” on the first notecard and “**Romans 10:17**” on the second. (Only write the Bible reference, not the whole verse.)

### Activity – “Act Out Your Answer!”

Prepare a charade or short skit for each of the Bible verses. (If there are lots of you, you can divide into groups and give each group one of the two cards).

- Give three minutes to work on each verse:
  - Look up the scripture and discover what is needed to share the news about Jesus.
  - Prepare a skit or charade to illustrate their answer.
  - Perform the skit or charade for everyone.
  - Answers: **Acts 1:8** – The Holy Spirit. **Romans 10:17** – The Word of God.
- Talk through the answers together.

### Discuss – To the Ends of the Earth!

We saw in our activity that in **Acts 1:8**, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would give His disciples power so that they could take the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Sometimes, sharing the good news with people can be difficult, but the Holy Spirit gives us power for the Great Commission.

- Why do you think it can be difficult to share the Gospel? We feel self-conscious; we are not sure what to say. The enemy of God, Satan, does not want people to hear about Jesus, so he may bring opposition to those who are living out the Great Commission.
- In **Romans 10:17**, we also saw that the Word of God, the Bible, is very important when we share with others about Jesus. What role does the Word play in the Great Commission? The Word builds faith, especially when people hear the Word.
- When Jesus’ disciples started spreading the news about Him, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the words that Jesus had given them. They were sent out to the nations as the first missionaries. How does the word “missionary” connect to today’s lesson? Missionaries are the ones who are living out the Great Commission. Both words – *missionary* and *commission* – have the word “mission” in them. Our life mission is to be the ones who tell others about Jesus.

Jesus gave His disciples an interesting order for bringing the message about Him. He said to be His witnesses first to Jerusalem – where they lived, then to Judea, then to Samaria, and finally to the ends of the earth. Like them, we should share first with those around us and then move further outward until we have come to the outermost places on the earth.

God allowed an interesting exchange in the Great Commission. It started in Jerusalem with Jews bringing the message about Jesus to the Gentiles. It will end in Jerusalem, with Gentiles bringing the message back to the Jews (see **Romans 11:13-14, 30-31**). God loves all people and desires that everyone has the opportunity to hear about and know Jesus. He has a special plan and purpose for the message about Jesus to come full circle around the globe.

## READY TO GO

*Thinking about how this affects our lives and our response to the signs we see.*

Think about what you will do to live out the Great Commission.

## TIME FOR ACTION



1. **“STOP & THINK” Action Point**

Take two minutes to think about your own life. Are you sharing the good news about Jesus with those around you?



2. **“PAUSE TO PRAY” Action Point**

Talk with God about today’s lesson. Ask Him to pour out His Holy Spirit on you and to help you know His word more. Ask for His heart for people who haven’t heard about Jesus yet.



3. **“GO & DO” Action Point**

Have you ever gone on a mission trip to another nation or people group to tell them about Jesus? Perhaps you have gone on a trip within your own nation or city? If not, think about where you might like to go. Then, go and share with one or two others.

## SPRINGBOARD

Discuss what topic you would like to do together next time. After this session, you may wish to follow up next time with one of the following sessions:

- The Role of the Jews and the Role of the Nations
- Whose Life Is It Anyway?
- How to Be in the World and Not of It

## DEEPER STUDY

*For those who would like to study further the themes raised in this session.*

### For Study

1. God allowed most of the Jewish people in Jesus' day to be blinded to His identity. Most did not think that Jesus was their awaited Messiah. The Jewish people who did believe were Jesus' disciples. They began to bring the message to the ends of the earth, and it wasn't long before it was mostly Gentiles who followed Jesus. After 2,000 years, the Gentiles will bring the Gospel back to the Jewish people in Jerusalem, where it all began. According to **Romans 11:7-15**, what will happen when the Gospel returns to Jerusalem, and Jewish people put their faith in Jesus?
2. Read **Acts 1:4-5**. In these verses, before His ascension to Heaven, Jesus commands His disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they have received the Holy Spirit. He said the Holy Spirit would be given to them as a gift in several days' time. Read **Matthew 24:9-13** to see some reasons why Jesus insisted that His followers take the news about Him with the Holy Spirit's help.

### For Memorizing

1. **Acts 1:8** (NIV): "But you will receive power 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."
2. **Matthew 24:14** (NIV): "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

### For Observation

Go to this [website](https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com) (<https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com>). Watch the trailer to see how the *Faith Comes by Hearing* missions organization shares the message about Jesus orally, rather than in writing, to people groups in their native languages. They have a goal to try and finish the Great Commission by the year 2033. Of course, no one knows exactly when the Gospel will have reached all nations, but we do know that it is getting closer each day.

### For Action

Go to the [Joshua Project website](https://www.joshuaproject.net) (<https://www.joshuaproject.net>), and choose one unreached people group. Click on that people group on the interactive map and spend some time reading their profile. Print a prayer card from the website, or make your own, and commit to praying each day this month for this people group. Pray that people in that nation will hear about Jesus and His loving plan of salvation for them.

### Before the Next IN:Tribe

Find out more about the [10/40 Window](https://justdisciple.com/what-is-the-10-40-window/) (<https://justdisciple.com/what-is-the-10-40-window/>). Come to the next IN:Tribe session, ready to share three important things you have learned.

# **“I HAVE, WHO HAS?” GAME CARDS**

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## **I HAVE THE WORDS OF THE GREAT COMMISSION:**

[Matthew 28:18-20 \(NASB\)](#): “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

## **WHO HAS THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT?**

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### **I HAVE THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT:**

[Genesis 12:1-3 \(NIV\)](#): “The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’”

## **WHO HAS ISAIAH’S PROPHECY ABOUT THE GENTILES (A GENTILE IS A NON-JEW)?**

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### **I HAVE ISAIAH’S PROPHECY ABOUT THE GENTILES:**

[Isaiah 42:6 \(NIV\)](#): “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles.”

## **WHO HAS JESUS’ WORDS ABOUT OTHER SHEEP?**

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### **I HAVE JESUS’ WORDS ABOUT OTHER SHEEP:**

[John 10:16 \(NIV\)](#): “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

## **WHO HAS JESUS’ WORDS ABOUT HIS HOUSE OF PRAYER?**

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### **I HAVE JESUS’ WORDS ABOUT HIS HOUSE OF PRAYER:**

[Mark 11:17 \(NASB\)](#): And He *began* to teach and say to them, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”

## **WHO HAS THE WORDS OF THE GREAT COMMISSION?**