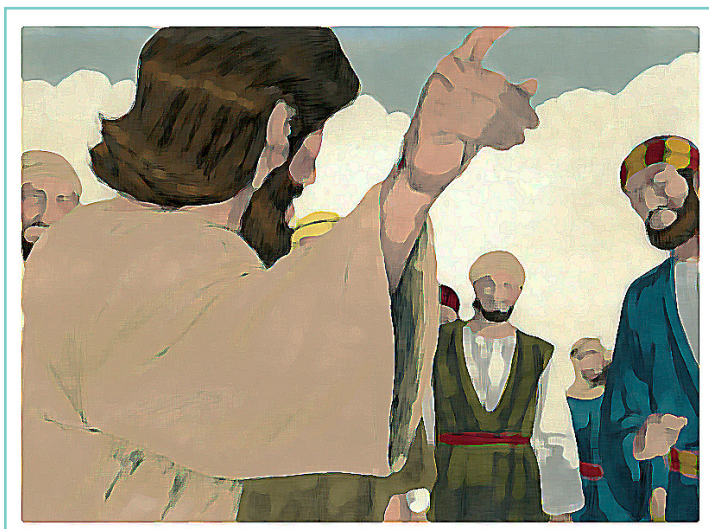


Lesson 1: Evangelism



Old Testament

New Testament

Where in the Bible?

The Gospel of Matthew is the first book in the New Testament.

The New Testament: Commission

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times. He sent his followers out to make disciples of all nations and teach all that he had commanded. After 40 days, he ascended into heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

Biblical Background

Though Jesus had told his disciples many times that he would rise from the dead, and the risen Lord had revealed himself to them several times, it appears the disciples still did not understand the mission God was preparing them for.

In today's story, we hear what is known as the Great Commission. To be commissioned is to be sent with the authority to carry out a specific task. In this case, Jesus was sending his disciples out into the world to share with all people the Good News that in his death and resurrection we have the promise of eternal life!

Introduction

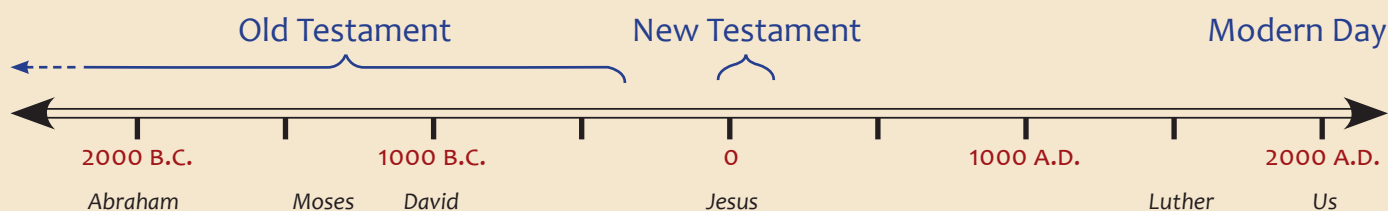
After Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples gathered together with him in Galilee, where he gave his final instructions to them. He told them to go out and make disciples of all nations, promising that he would be with them always.

Read: Matthew 28:16-20

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

When in Time?

Christians look at history with Jesus at the center. The time period covered by the New Testament is less than 100 years, and the events it describes took place about 2,000 years prior to our modern day. On the timeline below, mark the span of time that Christians have been following Jesus' Commission to "make disciples of all nations."



Discuss: Matthew 28:16-20

1. Go back a few verses and read Matthew 28:7 and 28:10. On the first Easter morning, what did the angel and Jesus himself tell the disciples to do?
2. Verse 17 says that “they worshiped him, but some doubted.” How do you think you would have felt to see Jesus alive again after he had died? Is it possible to have faith and worship Jesus, yet still have some doubts?
3. Jesus began his Great Commission by saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (v. 18). What does that mean? What is “authority”?
4. In what way is Jesus’ command here based on his authority?
5. The literal wording in verse 19 is not so much “Go...” but more like “As you are going ...”. How is telling others about Jesus not a separate task we are called to, but something he wants us to do as part of our everyday life?
6. What does Jesus tell the disciples to go do? What does God do to us through baptizing and teaching?
7. What is Jesus’ final promise in the Book of Matthew? Why is this important for us to remember in our everyday lives of faith?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14 - 6:2. How do Paul’s words here match what Jesus said? What is the reason God is sending us out into the world? What does God want to accomplish through us?

Where in the World?

The map to the right shows the land of Israel. After his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples to meet him in Galilee, the northern region where Jesus and most of the disciples originally came from.

Note the location of four important New Testament towns shown on the map.

- a) Which two of these towns are in the region of Galilee?
_____ and _____
- b) Which two of these towns are in the region of Judea?
_____ and _____
- c) Can you correctly label the three seas that are shown in blue on the map?

- 1) The Mediterranean Sea
- 2) The Sea of Galilee
- 3) The Dead Sea

