



Recruitment Devotions for Kindergarten & Primary Grades

I. READY, SET, GO!

Mark 16:15 - He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

(The teacher may wish to line several students up as being the start of a race.) At a race, the starter usually says, "On your mark, get set..." Then what? *(Answer: "GO").* Yes, "Go!" As soon as they hear the word "go," the racers run as fast as they can. They might only run about as long as a football field, or they might run one or two laps around a track, or they could run ten miles or more!

This morning Jesus tells us about getting set to go. Listen to what he says. *(Read Mark 16:15.)* Our Bible reading today tells us of a very special race Jesus wants us to run. He wants us to get set to go and preach the good news of his forgiveness throughout all the world.

This is news that every single person needs to hear. Our parents need to hear it, and our brothers and sisters, our cousins, our neighbors, our friends -- every person needs to hear it because every person is a sinner. You are. I am. We sin by saying things we shouldn't. We sin when we don't listen to our parents. We sin when we are mean to someone at school. *(Add to the list as may be fitting to your situation.)* We all sin every single day.

But Jesus never sinned, not even once. He obeyed God perfectly and he did it because he loves us. Jesus lived for you and me and Jesus died for you and me. He died on the cross to pay for all of our sins, and not just ours, but also for the sins of the entire world.

Jesus did this because he loves the whole world -- the people in faraway countries and the people right here in our own city. And Jesus wants us to go and share this good news with all those people.

The concept in the following paragraph may be a bit difficult for kindergarten:
(The teacher may want to use a map or globe as visual aid.) Name some of the cities that you have visited. *(Let them list several.)* There are many more cities that you might not ever visit -- cities like Columbia, Missouri; Tappen, North Dakota; Spring Hill, Tennessee; or Tokyo in Japan and Moscow in Russia. These are all cities full of sinners who need to hear about God's love, who need to hear about Jesus.

We can't forget about the people in Missouri or Tennessee or Japan or Russia or other far away places, people who need to hear about Jesus. Even if we can't go there by ourselves and preach to them we can still do something. Perhaps you can start thinking right now about being a pastor or teacher or even a missionary one day. You can give mission money to help build new churches in far away places. And don't forget what you can do everyday -- pray! Let us pray now and ask Jesus to send more pastors, teachers, and missionaries into the world to share the good news -- that he died for all people.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, the world is filled with people who need to hear about your love for them. Help us to do all we can with our prayers, our offerings and our lives to help carry the Good News of your saving love into all the world. We ask it in your name. Amen.

II. GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Matthew 28:19 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(The teacher may wish to use a picture of a traffic light as a visual aid.) What three colors are on the lights of a traffic light? What does the red mean? What does the yellow mean? What does the green mean?

When the light turns green, the cars are supposed to go; that means they need to get moving. In fact, if a car stays at a green light, other people might even honk their horns to tell the driver to get started.

"GO" is an important word that Jesus uses in our Bible reading for today. *(Read Matthew 28:19)* Jesus was talking to his disciples *(Here you may need to explain what a disciple is, e.g. someone who already knows about Jesus and follows Him)*. We are Jesus' disciples, too; we know about Jesus and follow him. So Jesus is also talking to us when he says, "GO!". We don't have to wait until we are 10, 20 or even 50 years old to do that. With Jesus, the light is always green. That means we are to get going, right now!

Why is it so important for us to go and make disciples of all nations? In other words, why do we need to tell others about Jesus? *(Answers may vary. Possible answers are because we are all sinners or so that they can go to heaven. The point we want the young people to see is that all have sinned, including themselves.)*

What are some examples of the sins we commit? *(Write answers on the board. Be careful that the students might like to point out the sins of others and not their own)* What has Jesus done for us? *(Died on the cross)* That is truly wonderful, isn't it? Jesus loved us so much that he suffered and died on the cross to pay for our sins. *(Erase the sins to show Jesus' forgiveness; possibly draw a cross in their place)*

This good news needs to be shared with all people. That is why Jesus tells us to "GO and make disciples!" We can do this by reminding each other about how much Jesus loves us, and by telling friends who don't know Jesus about his love for them. We can also do this by praying for others to hear and believe in Jesus.

The light is green. Let's get going for Jesus. Let's tell others about Him!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, you were willing to COME and save us. Make us willing to GO and tell others about you. Amen.



III. BEAUTIFUL FEET

Romans 10:15 - And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

[The teacher may wish to draw a foot on the chalk board to be able to point to its various parts.]

Beautiful feet! Somehow I've never thought much about how feet look. Oh yes, I know there are toes, a heel, some arches, the top and the sole. But none of these things strike me as being pretty, much less beautiful.

What sorts of things do you know that our feet can do? *(Answer: You'll get many responses such as run,*

jump, walk, skip, hop, kick, etc., but all of these things show that feet help us to move) Beside helping us move, feet help to support our bodies when we stand. Our feet give us greater balance, and when we stand on tiptoe they give us a little extra height to reach or see things. *[The teacher may ask the students to stand on one foot or to tiptoe and then on both feet to experience greater balance. The teacher may ask the students to determine their ability to reach on the surface of the wall while standing flat on both feet, and then to compare that to their reach while standing on tiptoe.]*

Our Bible reading today tells us that special feet are beautiful. Those special feet belong to the people who preach the good news about Jesus, our Savior. Their feet are beautiful because they are serving as God's feet. They are doing his work. Although God is always here, he is no longer here in a way we can see. After Jesus finished his work of saving sinners, he returned to heaven. He is here with us right now as we are having this devotion, but he is no longer here for us to see.

Since Jesus is no longer here on earth to walk about and talk to people about his work of salvation, he lets us do that in his place. When we do, our feet are beautiful because they move us about and help us to do God's work.

You might be thinking, "How can I preach the good news? I'm not a pastor or teacher!" This is true. You are not a pastor or teacher right now, but later on you could be. Perhaps when you are older you might go to Martin Luther College to train to be a special messenger for Christ. But for now you can tell your friends in the neighborhood the things you know and are learning about Jesus. When you do, you are serving as God's feet, moving the message of salvation along to other people.

Will you be God's feet? Will you share the good news about Jesus? God will think your feet are beautiful when you do!

Prayer: Dear Lord, you have given us the good news of salvation. Help us to have beautiful feet as we pass that message on. And as we move on through our lives, if it is your will, help us to become full-time messengers for you as your pastors or teachers. In Jesus' name. Amen.



IV. SHINING LIGHTS

Psalm 119:105 - *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

(A flashlight with batteries is needed. Hold up the flashlight.) Can anyone tell me what this is? *(A flashlight.)* What does a flashlight do? *(Gives light.)*

But this one isn't giving any light. Why not? *(Must turn it on.)* *(Flick the switch)* It still doesn't work! What's wrong? *(Needs batteries)* Yes, it needs a source of power to shine. The flashlight needs batteries to be that power source. Then if it is turned on, it will shine. *(The teacher should put batteries in, turn the flashlight on, and demonstrate to the students that it shines.)*

Why would a person need a flashlight? *(Responses should concern dark places and the need for light to be able to see)* Our reading today speaks of a light, too. But this light is more important than the light from our flashlight or from any other source. This light is God's Word, and it shows the way to heaven.

The power behind this light is God. Because God works in his Word, God's Word will never run out of

power even though our flashlight batteries will. When God works faith in our hearts, he turns on the light so we can see the way to heaven. Faith works like the ON switch of our flashlight. It changes us from sinners lost in darkness to redeemed children of light.

Just what does the light of God's Word show us? It shows us that Jesus is the only way to heaven. No wonder then that Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (You may wish to have this written on the chalkboard.)

How wonderful that we have that special light. How powerful God's Word is to work faith in our hearts and to turn us to Jesus so we can see the right path to heaven. But now that we have the light, what should we do with it? If it's dark and you have a flashlight, you would use it to light the way that you're walking so that you don't stumble and fall. You would also share it with anyone with you so they could walk safely.

Here (*hold up the Bible*) we have a much more powerful and important light. We can use it to light our path through life until we get to heaven. We can also share it with others so they might learn to know Jesus as their Savior.

God tells us in Matthew 5:16 that we are to let our light shine before men. How will others see that our light is shining? Our life will show it. We will try to live by God's commandments and will tell others what we've learned about Jesus. Every Christian should try to do that.

Sometimes, though, there is a special way for Christians to share their faith in God with other people. That special way is to become a pastor or teacher in the Lord's church. This work offers wonderful chances to share your faith on a daily basis as God's special servants. Remember, God uses his word to "turn on" (or work faith in) the hearts of others so they can see the Light of the world -- Jesus. What better way to share that truth than by teaching Bible lessons, catechism, hymns, or preaching God's Word. Why not think about becoming a pastor or a teacher. You could be one of those people who carries the light of God's Word in this special way.

Prayer: Dear Father, Giver of the light that leads us to you, help us to let our Gospel lights shine so that others may learn of Jesus and may some day be with him in heaven. And, if it is your will, help us become one of the special carriers of your light as pastors and teachers who may help guide more people to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

