

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

Before Jesus left the earth to head back to heaven, He gave His followers an important instruction to “go and make disciples.”

What’s the opposite of go? _____

Did you write “stop” or “stay”? Jesus wanted His followers to move. He didn’t want them to stay put where they were, feeling sad that He was gone. He wanted them to get a move on and not waste a single moment looking back.

Jesus wanted them to go and make disciples. Do you know what a disciple is? A disciple is a follower of Jesus.

Because God loves all, He wants all to know Him. Because those first disciples were obedient to tell people about Jesus, that message has reached us all the way in 2021. But that command to “go and make disciples” wasn’t just for those first followers over 2,000 years ago. You have the opportunity right now to tell others about Jesus. You can have confidence to make a difference too.

Fill in the blanks below as a prayer today:

God, help me to go _____.
a place

Give me the courage to tell _____
a friend or family member
about you. Thank You for loving me.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Read Matthew 5:14-16.

Did you know that in the town of Tromso, Norway, from November to mid-January, there is almost constant darkness?

Did you know that in Reyjavik, Iceland, there is one day a year when the sun sets just after midnight and rises again at 3 am? That makes it the longest day of the year.

Did you know that in Hammerfest, Norway, the sun starts shining in mid-May and stays almost to the end of July? Did you know that Jesus said you are a light to the world around you?

Light is important. It makes things grow. It helps us see where to go so we can get things done. We’ve even figured out a way to harness the light of the sun to power our homes.

You are a light. Because of your faith in Jesus, you have the opportunity every day to make a difference. When you listen, care, help, serve, and love others, it’s like pulling out a flashlight in a dark room. By following Jesus and treating others the way you want to be treated, you help others to know Jesus too.

Just like turning on a light makes a *huge* difference in a dark room, you can have confidence because you can make a difference in your world. As you pray today, ask God to help you shine your light this week so that others can know Jesus.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

Today's verses give us an order of things when it comes to faith (putting our trust in God) and doing good. What comes first? Faith or good works? Faith always comes first.

God sent His Son Jesus to make a way for us to be forgiven. When we trust in what He did for us on the cross, we are given the gift of a relationship with God. We become a part of His family forever. Our distance from God is fixed only by what Jesus has done, not by any good things we do.

It's faith first, then good works.

What are good works? Anything we do to help others. To put others first. To make the world around us a better place by loving others like Jesus loves us.

So here's a big question for you: Have you chosen to put your faith or trust in Jesus? Are you trying to do good things to earn your way into a relationship with God? Spend some time talking to your parents or small group leader about what it means to put your faith in Jesus first so you can do good in the world around you.

I can have confidence
to make a difference.

Read John 15:12.

Use the chart to fill in the blanks below:

A	C	D	E	H	I	J	L	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
M	N	O	R	S	T	U	V	Y
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

9	17	2	11	9	9	1	10	3	6	13	
_____:											
14	5	6	13	8	11	16	4	4	1	2	5
11	14	5	4	12	1	13	6	5	1	16	4
_____”											
8	11	16	4	3	17	11	15				
_____ 15:12											
7	11	5	10								

Jesus' command or challenge to those who follow Him is simply to love.

- Love the kid who's mean.
- Love the brother who's annoying.
- Love the neighbor who yells to get off his lawn.
- Love the bully.
- Love the new kid who speaks a different language.
- Love the quiet kid.
- Love. Period.

Jesus went all the way to the cross to prove just how much He loves you. The most important thing you can do is to turn around and share that love with others. You can have confidence to make a difference when you love others as Jesus loves you.