



The Great Commission

by Sharon Steinmiller (with Louise Hannum and
Canadian history by the Rev. Dr. Grant LeMarquand)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
—Matthew 28:19-20, NRSV

Anglican and Episcopal Mission History

Before Canada and the United States became independent, the Church of England saw North America as their mission field. The Episcopal Church of the United States and the Anglican Church of Canada are a result of their missionary work. Mission work by the American Episcopal Church started as people moved west. A few people, supported by church contributions, worked outside the U.S. Information was presented to the church about missionary work in Liberia, the Philippines, Haiti, Brazil, and Alaska.

During the late 1950s, interest in missions started to decline among many Anglicans. Then, in 1974, the Episcopal Church Missionary Society (now New Wineskins Missionary Network) renewed the mission initiative. The South American Missionary Society (1976), Global Teams (1983), and Anglican Frontier Missions (1993) expanded outreach to people who have never heard the Gospel. These organizations continue the work today. As a result, the Anglican Communion now includes people who had not known about Jesus Christ. Today, Anglican missionaries are going from parishes in India, Nigeria, Singapore, and elsewhere to reach even more who have not heard of the love of Jesus.

Missions is a major theme throughout the Bible:

Missions in the Old Testament

- Genesis makes it clear that God is not a tribal God; He is Creator of the whole world.
- When the children of Israel crossed into the promised land, God said He did this "so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful" (Josh. 4:24).
- In the middle of Solomon's prayer dedicating the temple, he prayed that "all the peoples of the earth may know your name" (2 Chron. 6:32-33).

IN THIS EDITION this quarter investigates

THE GREAT COMMISSION

**Passing the Torch—
FamilyEdition:**
Discover the
Great Commission
as a family

**Coming up on the
Church Calendar**

Lighting the Lamp:
Anglican activities
for Toddlers and
Preschoolers

Lighting the Lamp:
Anglican activities for
Elementary Students

Lighting the Lamp:
Anglican activities
for youth

- Psalm 67:1-2 says, “That your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations,” and Psalm 96:3 says, “Declare his glory among the nations.”
- The Book of Jonah is about a reluctant missionary and God’s heart for the lost.

Missions in the New Testament

- All four of the Gospels include some form of the Great Commission.
- The Book of Acts is about the spread of the Gospel, built around Jesus’ words, “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).
- The Epistles were written by missionaries to the young churches. And Revelation 5:9-10 shows that at the end of history, people from every tribe and language will be gathered around the throne of God, praising Him!

Raising Mission Vision

Consider what the Great Commission means and how missions can be a part of your life. Talk with your class about it this quarter. If possible, invite an Anglican missionary to speak to your Sunday school class. Pray that God might raise up missionaries from your class.

Coming Up on the Church Calendar

Early Christians organized their year to remember and celebrate the important events of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, and the beginning of the Church. For more information, consult *The Book of Common Prayer*. Here are a few select events.

Christmas takes place on December 25. “Christ’s mass” came about as a Christian counterpart to winter solstice festivities to honor the sun. We celebrate that God became human and dwelt among us. The traditional color used in churches to remember Christmas is white, referencing purity.

Holy Innocents, December 28, recalls a dark event, when King Herod’s soldiers killed the boys two and under in Bethlehem (Matt. 2). Holy Innocents shows us a chilling example of sin, but also encourages us to pray and act on behalf of the helpless. The traditional color used in churches on Holy Innocents is red, representing the blood shed that day.

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6. On this day, we remember that the wise men brought gifts to Jesus. In ancient times, each country or ethnic group had their own god. These “gods” did not cross ethnic or geographic barriers. Yet the Epiphany account indicates that God wants to draw in “outsiders.” Epiphany themes include the light of Christ being revealed to us and our role in being a “light for the Gentiles” (Isa. 49:6). For Epiphany, the traditional color used in churches is white or gold for light.

The Conversion of St. Paul is January 25. This special day helps us focus on the theme of missions. Saul zealously protected his “way of life” until the Lord confronted him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-22). Paul became the first cross-cultural missionary.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, February 17. Ash Wednesday is a day for repentance. In church, people may receive the sign of the cross marked in ashes on their foreheads. Ash Wednesday is also a day for fasting. (See Jonah 3, Dan. 9:1-4, Matt. 11:21). As individuals, we confront our sin and remember our need for the Savior. As a church community, we admit our need for God’s forgiveness. When the ashes are placed on the forehead, the words “For dust you are, and to dust, you will return” (Gen. 3:19) remind us that “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). The traditional color used in churches is black for mourning.

Passing the Torch Family Edition

Family Discoveries The Great Commission

It is easy to feel disconnected from Christians and mission work abroad. Explore missions in a new way: with your taste buds! As you try these international recipes, pray for the country of origin. Go a step further by researching the countries. Find out what life is like for the residents of these countries—economically and politically. Investigate the state of Christianity—what percentage of the population is Christian? What effort is being made by mission organizations to increase that number?

Resources to Get You Started

Search the Internet to find reliable information about different people groups and countries around the world (key phrases: unreached people groups, international missions, and global missions). Use a globe to show your children where different countries are located relative to your hometown. A globe can also serve as a tangible reminder to pray for people around the world.

INDIAN SWEET BREAD

(India)

12 Servings

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour

1/4 teaspoon salt

2/3 cup water

1/4 cup white sugar

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Directions: In a large bowl, stir together the flour, salt, and water into a soft dough. Place the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead briefly. Divide dough into golf-ball size pieces and cover with a damp cloth or plastic wrap. On a lightly floured surface, roll out each ball of dough until thin. Sprinkle lightly and evenly with sugar. Fold up dough into a small square and roll out again until thin. Heat a slightly oiled griddle on medium heat. Place the rolled dough onto the griddle, flipping so each side is golden. Serve immediately. *Optional: Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar after cooking.*

MEXICAN WEDDING CAKE COOKIES

(Known as *biscochitos* in Mexico. Similar cookies found in many Western and Eastern European countries.)

4 dozen cookies

Ingredients:

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened

1 cup powdered sugar, divided into 2 half cups

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 cup finely chopped pecans

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Beat the butter, 1/2 cup powdered sugar, and the vanilla with an electric mixer on medium speed until it is light and fluffy. Gradually add the flour and nuts, beating on low after each addition. Beat until well blended. Shape the dough into 1 inch balls and place them 1 1/2 inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake 14-15 minutes or until the bottoms of the cookies are lightly browned. Cool on the pans for 5 minutes. Roll the warm cookies in the remaining 1/2 cup powdered sugar, coating evenly. Cool completely on wire racks.

SPRITZ COOKIES

(Germany and Scandinavian countries)

About 5 dozen cookies

Ingredients:

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

2 egg yolks

3/4 cup sugar

1 cup (2 sticks) butter

1 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract.

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Sift together the flour and salt. Beat together the sugar and butter with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add the egg yolks and vanilla to the butter mixture. Stir in the flour and beat well. You may choose to chill the dough slightly, but it is not necessary. The dough should be pliable. Put the dough through a cookie press onto an ungreased baking sheet. Bake about 10 minutes until lightly browned. Alternative: Instead of using a cookie press, roll dough into small balls and flatten slightly. They will not spread much, so do not make them more than 1/4 inch thick. *Optional: Add a couple drops of food coloring to the dough while mixing, or add sprinkles to the cookies before baking to make them more festive.*



Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Toddlers In Your Toddler/2 Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

December Activities

■ To celebrate Christmas, give each child a heart to color and write his or her name in the center of the heart. Give each child a box and a bow. Ask them to put their heart inside their box and attach the bow to the top. They can also color the box if you have time. **At Christmas we give presents to show we love each other. What is in your box? Hearts represent love. How can you show Jesus your love?**

Materials: A heart cut from white construction paper for each child, coloring utensils, small box for each child, a bow for each child.

■ Practice the **Great Commission** by sharing God's love with adults in your congregation. Take your class to sing for an adult Sunday School class. Use a song you are practicing for a Christmas program or a song you choose for the occasion.

January Activities

■ Celebrate **Epiphany** on January 3. Have each child decorate a star. Affix the star to the top of a craft stick (you will need to do this). Instruct your class to hold up their star whenever you say the word 'star' during your story. **One night, wise men saw a bright star in the sky. The wise men knew that the star was going to lead them to someone very special. So, the wise men followed the star, and it led them to Jesus. The wise men brought Jesus special presents. We celebrate Epiphany and think about the wise men.**

Materials: A cutout of the star from the template on page 11 of this supplement for each child, a craft stick for each child, masking tape or craft glue, coloring utensils.

■ Play a **Great Commission game**. In the **Great Commission**, Jesus told the disciples to go and tell people about his love. We can tell people that Jesus loves them too. Have the children spread out around the room. Pick one child to go first. That child should go say, "Jesus loves you" to another child in the room. The child who heard the message should go tell another child, repeating until every child has been told. After the child tells someone the news, the child should sit down, indicating that they have already had a turn.

February Activities

■ Talk about the **Great Commission**. Give each child a coloring page. **Jesus told the disciples to tell the world about his love. Color the whole world because we need to tell the whole world Jesus loves them.**

Materials: Copies of the Great Commission Coloring Page on page 16 of this supplement, crayons.

■ February 21 is the first Sunday of Lent. Decorate your classroom in purple. **Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Do you know what color this is [point to something purple]? It is purple, the color for Lent. Lent is a time to tell God we are sorry about the bad things we do and remember Jesus came to earth to forgive us.**

Materials: Purple objects to decorate the classroom.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Preschool Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

December Activities

■ To celebrate **Christmas**, give each child a heart to color and write his or her name in the center of the heart. Give each child a box and a bow. Ask them to put their heart inside their box and attach the bow to the top. Have the children decorate their box with stickers. They can also color it. **At Christmas we give presents to show we love each other. What is in your box? Hearts represent love. How can you show Jesus your love?**

Materials: A heart cut from white construction paper for each child, coloring utensils, small box for each child, a bow for each child, stickers.

■ Practice the **Great Commission** by sharing God's love with adults in your congregation. Take your class to sing for an adult Sunday School class. Use a song you are practicing for a Christmas program or a song you choose for the occasion.

January Activities

■ Celebrate **Epiphany** on January 3. Have each child decorate a star. Affix the star to the top of a craft stick (you will need to help with this). Instruct your class to hold up their star whenever you say the word 'star' during your story. **One night, wise men saw a bright star in the sky. The wise men knew that the star was going to lead them to someone very special. So, the wise men followed the star, and it led them to Jesus. The wise men brought Jesus special presents. We celebrate Epiphany and think about the wise men.**

Materials: A cut out of the star from the template on page 11 of this supplement for each child, a craft stick for each child, masking tape or craft glue, coloring utensils.

■ Play a **Great Commission** game. **In the Great Commission, Jesus told the disciples to go and tell people about his love. We can tell people that Jesus loves them too.** Have the children spread out around the room. Pick one child to go first. That child should go say "Jesus loves you" to another child in the room. The child who heard the message should go tell another child, repeating until every child has been told. After the child tells someone the news, the child should sit down, indicating that they have already had a turn.

February Activities

■ Talk about the **Great Commission**. Give each child a coloring page. **Jesus told the disciples to tell the world about his love. Color the whole world because we need to tell the whole world Jesus loves them.**

Materials: Copies of the Great Commission Coloring Page on page 12 of this supplement, crayons.

■ February 21 is the first Sunday of Lent. Decorate your classroom in purple. **Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Do you know what color this is [point to something purple]? It is purple, the color we use for Lent. Lent is a time for being sorry for doing bad things and to remember that Jesus died on the cross to forgive us for the bad things we do. The color purple can help us to remember this.**

Materials: Purple objects to decorate your classroom.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Early Elementary Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

December Activities

■ To celebrate **Christmas**, give each child a heart to color and have each child write his or her name in the center of the heart. Give each child a box and a bow. Ask them to put their heart inside their box and attach the bow to the top. Have the children decorate their box with stickers. They can also color on it. **At Christmas we give presents to show we love each other. What is in your box? Hearts represent love. How can you show Jesus your love? How can you show other people love?**

Materials: A heart cut from white construction paper for each child, coloring utensils, small box for each child, a bow for each child, stickers.

■ Practice the **Great Commission** by sharing God's love with adults in your congregation. Take your class to sing for an adult Sunday School class. Use a song you are practicing for a Christmas program or a song you choose for the occasion.

February Activities

■ Play a **Great Commission** game. This game is played like the game Simon Says. Have the children line up on one side of the room. Select one student to be "it" and stand on the opposite side of the room. The student should say, "Jesus says go and _____," filling in the blank with an action. If "Jesus says," then the students should move. If only a command is given, the students should not move. If they move when they should not, they go back to the beginning. The first student to reach the person who is "it" gets to be next.

■ February 21 is the first Sunday of **Lent**. To help your class better understand the season of Lent, decorate your classroom in purple. **Can you spot what's different about the room this week? It is decorated in purple, the color we use to remind us of Lent. Today is the first Sunday of Lent. One of**

January Activities

■ Celebrate **Epiphany** on January 3. **God used a star to lead the wise men to Jesus. We are going to make crystal stars to remind us of this.** Have each child form a pipe cleaner into the shape of a star. They should tie one end of a piece of string around the star and one end around a pencil. The string should be just long enough to suspend the star in the jar with the pencil sitting across the top. Make a solution of boiling water and borax using 3 tablespoons borax per cup of water. Have an adult fill each child's jar with enough of the solution to cover the star. Have the children take them home like this. Send home a copy of the instructions to finish the project.

Materials: Pipe cleaner for each child, string, a pencil for each child, an empty jar for each child, boiling water, borax, copies of the instructions on page 13 for each child.

■ On January 24, remember the **Conversion of St. Paul**. Tell your students the story of Paul's conversion [Acts 9:1-19]. Then select four or five of your students to act out the conversion as you read the story again. As time allows, repeat with different students. **After Paul's conversion, he was a new man. He started doing good things for God. He even wrote some of the books in the Bible.**

Materials: Flashlight, bandana or piece of cloth to use as a blindfold.

the ways we get ready to celebrate Lent is by decorating with purple. Lent is a time for repentance. Repentance is being sorry for doing bad things and then trying to stop doing those bad things. Do you know when you've done something wrong? How does it make you feel? Purple can help us remember to repent and ask Jesus to forgive the wrong things we do. Jesus died on the cross to forgive us when we ask Him to.

Materials: Purple objects to decorate your classroom.

Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch—Family Edition* (Page 3 of this supplement).

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Elementary Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

December

■ Celebrate **Christmas** by helping children demonstrate love to their families. **At Christmas, one way that we show people we love them is by giving gifts or helping them do things. Today we are going to make a coupon book for you to give to your parents or someone you love. Each coupon will be good for you to complete a task for them.** Give each child a page of gift coupons. Have them fill out the coupons and decorate them. Be prepared with some ideas for the coupons, i.e. washing dishes, cleaning room, washing car, laundry, taking out trash, cooking dinner, etc. When they are finished, have them cut the coupons apart and staple them together along one side to make a book. Give each child an envelope to decorate and put their book inside in order to give it as a gift.

Materials: Copies of the gift coupons on page 14 of this supplement for each child, writing utensils, coloring utensils, stapler, scissors.

■ Play a **Great Commission game**. This game is played like the game Simon Says. Have the children line up on one side of the room. Select one student to be "it" and stand on the opposite side of the room. The student should say, "Jesus says go and _____," filling in the blank with an action. If "Jesus says," then the students should move. If only a command is given, the students should not move. If they move when they should not, they go back to the beginning. The first student to reach the person who is "it" gets to be "it" next.

January Activities

■ Celebrate Epiphany on January 3. **God used a star to lead the wise men to Jesus. We are going to make crystal stars to remind us of this.** Have each child form a pipe cleaner into the shape of a star. They should tie one end of a piece of string around the star and one end around a pencil. The string should be just long enough to suspend the star in the jar with the pencil sitting across the top. Make a solution of boiling water and borax using 3 tablespoons borax per cup of water. Have an adult fill each child's jar with enough of the solution to cover the star. Have the children take them home like this. Send home a copy of the instructions to finish the project.

Materials: Pipe cleaner for each child, string, a pencil for each child, an empty jar for each child, boiling water, borax, copies of the instructions on page 13 for each child.

■ On January 24, remember the **Conversion of St. Paul**. Tell your students the story of Paul's conversion [Acts 9:1-19]. Then select four or five of your students to act out the conversion as you read the story again. As time allows, repeat with different students. **After Paul's conversion, he was a new man. He started doing good things for God. He even wrote some of the books in the Bible. What are some of the stories you remember about Paul?**

Materials: Flashlight, bandana or piece of cloth to use as a blindfold.

February Activities

■ Talk about **Ash Wednesday** on February 21. Have the children tie a knot at one end of the yarn. They should then slide the beads on in this order: yellow, black, red, white, green. Have them tie the ends together to make a bracelet.

Materials: 6-inch lengths of yarn for each child; yellow, black, red, white, and green pony beads—one of each color per child, copy of the explanation on page 15 for each child.

HERO FOR CHRIST

(use on February 7)



Simon Gibbons First Inuit Priest

1852–1896

WHERE HE LIVED: Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada

WHAT HE DID:

Simon Gibbons was six years old when he became an orphan—a child with no father or mother. Simon was very smart and liked to learn about the Lord. He decided to become a clergyman. Simon worked hard and became the first Inuit priest.

Simon did not have just one church, but many. He often had to walk a long way, sometimes through snow using his snowshoes. He also had to take a boat to some churches. Simon Gibbons went to Great Britain twice to raise money for his churches. People were moved by his speeches, and he was respected by all who knew him.

Hero for Christ: Activity

Matthew 28:19-20 gives us Jesus' instructions. Have your students look up and read these verses.

These instructions are the Great Commission. A commission is something we are given to do.

Simon Gibbons followed the Great Commission in Nova Scotia.

Have the students write the Great Commission on one side of their index cards. On the other side, have them write down three ideas for living out the Great Commission. You can brainstorm together.

Materials: Index cards, writing utensils, Bibles.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Elementary-Aged Students In Your Upper Elementary Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

December Activities

■ Celebrate **Christmas** by helping children demonstrate love to their families. **At Christmas one way that we show people we love them is by giving gifts or helping them do things. Today we are going to make a coupon book for you to give to your parents or someone you love. Each coupon will be good for you to complete a task for them. Give each child a page of gift coupons. Have them fill out the coupons and decorate them.** Be prepared with some ideas for the coupons, i.e. washing dishes, cleaning room, laundry, taking out trash, cooking dinner, etc. When they are finished, have them cut the coupons apart and staple them together along one side to make a book. Give each child an envelope to decorate and put their book inside in order to give it as a gift.

Materials: Copies of the gift coupons on page 14 of this supplement for each child, writing utensils, coloring utensils, stapler, scissors.

■ Practice the **Great Commission** by going caroling to shut-ins in your parish. Practice two or three Christmas carols as a class. If you are practicing songs for a Christmas program, you can use those songs. Plan a time to go caroling. Be sure to call ahead to make sure it is okay to stop by. Make sure that you have enough parents to drive and chaperone your students. Provide directions between houses to each driver.

February Activities

■ Talk about **Ash Wednesday** on February 21. Have the children tie a knot at one end of the yarn. They should then slide the beads on in this order: yellow, black, red, white, green. Have them tie the ends together to make a bracelet.

Materials: 6-inch lengths of yarn for each child; yellow, black, red, white, and green pony beads—one of each color per child; copy of the explanation on page 15 for each child.

January Activities

■ Celebrate the Epiphany on January 3. Read Matthew 2:1-11 together. Discuss the gifts and what the meaning is of each. While you talk, pass around the objects. **Gold was a valuable gift given to kings because it was rare and is the most workable of the precious metals. Frankincense was used by priests. It was burned at the altar, and the smoke represented prayers going up to heaven. Myrrh was an expensive perfume used to prepare the bodies of people who had died for burial. What do these gifts tell us about Jesus? What would you give Jesus?**

Materials: Perfume to represent myrrh (smells musty or earthy), reed diffuser to represent frankincense (pine-lemon scent), Bibles.

■ On January 24, remember the **Conversion of St. Paul**. Separate your class into groups of four or five and have them read and prepare a skit on Acts 9:1-19. Then have the groups perform their skits in front of the class using the props.

Materials: Flashlight, bandana or piece of cloth (blindfold), Bibles, Bible-times outfits (if available).

HERO FOR CHRIST

(use on February 14)



Martin Luther

1483–1546

WHAT HE DID:

On October 31, 1517, a young monk nailed a document on the door of the Castle church in Wittenberg for all to see. His paper, 95 Theses, changed the church.

This monk, Martin Luther, had made an important discovery. He had tried to follow all the religious rules he knew, but still felt he could never please God. One day, he read Romans 1:17, and saw that faith would save him, not good works. In 95 Theses, Luther objected to church officials selling “indulgences,” which were supposed to keep God from punishing people. Luther knew that faith in Jesus provided the way to heaven, not money! Luther’s teachings made church officials angry, and soon he was kicked out. Luther had to start a new church. Luther taught many people about the grace of God and encouraged all people to read the Bible. Because of Martin Luther, people all over Europe and Great Britain discovered that God loved them. Martin left the monastery and later married and had six children. He wrote many books and songs, and also translated the Bible into German.

Hero for Christ: Activity

Martin Luther stood up for what he believed in. He helped people understand God as Jesus and Paul taught. He wanted everyone to know that God loves them. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus says that we should tell people all over the world that God loves them, just like Martin Luther. [Selected missionary] is in [country] telling the people there that God loves them. We can encourage [him/her] by writing letters. Have your students each write a letter to the missionary. Put all of the letters in the large envelope and send it to the missionary.

Materials: Lined paper, writing utensils, large envelope, information about a missionary your parish supports.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Youth In Your Middle School Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

December Activities

■ To celebrate the **Great Commission**, organize a sock drive for a local homeless shelter. **One of the ways that we can obey Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all nations is to care for other people. One way we can share Jesus' love in our own community is to donate clothing to those in need. Many homeless people do not have basic things that many of us take for granted, like socks.** Challenge your students to bring in at least one pair of socks to donate and to ask others to donate as well.

■ Celebrate **Christmas** by making and sending cards to people in your congregation. These could be shut-ins, soldiers serving overseas, missionaries. Give the students time to make cards. Encourage them to write a Christmas greeting inside the card.

Materials: Cardstock or heavy paper in various colors, writing utensils, coloring utensils, Christmas-themed rubber stamps and stamp pads if available, Christmas-themed stickers, card-sized envelopes.

January Activities

■ Celebrate the **Epiphany** on January 3. Read Matthew 2:1-11 together. While you talk about the gifts, pass around the diffuser and the perfume so the youth can smell them. **Gold was a valuable gift given to kings because it was rare and is the most workable of the precious metals. Frankincense was used by priests. It was burned at the altar, and the smoke represented prayers going up to heaven. Myrrh was an expensive perfume used to prepare the bodies of people who had died for burial. What do these gifts tell us about Jesus? What would you give Jesus to represent who he is?**

Materials: Perfume to represent myrrh (smells musty or earthy), reed diffuser to represent frankincense (pine-lemon scent), Bibles.

■ On January 24, remember the **Conversion of St. Paul**. Read the story of Paul's conversion [Acts 9:1-19]. Then read Acts 13:44-52. **Paul was sent to the Gentiles to tell them about God's love. In our world today there are people who need a Paul, someone to tell them about Jesus. There are people who haven't even heard of Jesus. Our parish supports missionaries working with those people.** Create a poster together about the country and missionary to hang up in your classroom. Begin to pray for that country every time you meet.

Materials: Bibles, information about a country where your parish supports a missionary, picture of the missionary, printout of a map of the country, poster board, writing and coloring utensils.

February Activities

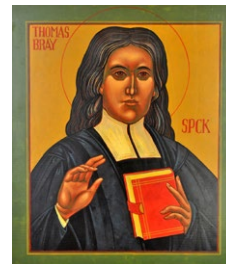
■ Talk about **Ash Wednesday** and Lent on February 21. **Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time when we focus on our sin and our need for Jesus' death and resurrection. During Lent it is common to give something up. Instead of giving something up this year, we are going to add a behavior that will help us live more like Jesus.** Brainstorm some ideas as a group and write them on a whiteboard (i.e. read Bible regularly, pray regularly, volunteer, etc.). Give each student an index card and instruct them to pick one of the ideas. Have them write on the card: "During Lent, I commit to ____" and sign their name on the card. Encourage them to place the card where they will see it and remember.

Materials: Index cards, writing utensils, whiteboard and markers (or a similar alternative).

Reproduce and send home *Passing the Torch—Family Edition* (Page 3 of this supplement).

BACK IN TIME

(use on February 7 or 14)



Thomas Bray

1656–1730

WHAT HE DID: Thomas Bray was a trailblazer in Anglican missions to the colonies in the early 1700s. He organized efforts to send clergy to the New World, but he did not stop there. Christian education for clergy, youth and children was a passion for Bray, so he also established libraries to support all who ministered to Black slaves, Native Americans, and English settlers. Bray founded two well-known Anglican missionary agencies: the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Thomas Bray's efforts at home were also fruitful. He helped establish libraries for country clergy in England and ministered to prisoners.

Back in Time Discussion

How might Thomas Bray work at spreading the Gospel and Christian knowledge today? How might he use the Internet? Social Media? Texting? Challenge your students to use some of their ideas and follow Bray's example. Remind them that the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) is for all believers. Use the prayers for the mission of the church on page 257 of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer to lead your class in a prayer time for all nations.

Materials: Prayer book, Bible.

Anglican Activities for Reaching Out with Jesus' Love to Youth In Your High School Classroom



Lighting the Lamp

December Activities

■ To celebrate the **Great Commission**, organize a toiletries drive for a local homeless shelter. **One of the ways that we can obey Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all nations is to care for other people. One way we can share Jesus' love in our own community is to donate clothing to those in need. Many homeless people do not have basic things that many of us take for granted, like toiletries.** Challenge your students to bring in at least one toiletry item to donate and to ask others to donate as well. You can find lists of needed items online or by calling shelters.

■ Celebrate **Christmas** by making and sending cards to people in your congregation. These could be shut-ins, soldiers serving overseas, or missionaries. Give the students time to make cards. Encourage them to write a Christmas greeting inside the card.

Materials: Cardstock or heavy paper in various colors, writing utensils, coloring utensils, Christmas-themed rubber stamps and stamp pads if available, Christmas-themed stickers, card-sized envelopes.

January Activities

■ Celebrate the **Epiphany** on January 3. Read Matthew 2:1-11 together. While you talk about the gifts, pass around the diffuser and the perfume so the youth can smell them. **Gold was a valuable gift given to kings because it was rare and is the most workable of the precious metals. Frankincense was used by priests. It was burned at the altar, and the smoke represented prayers going up to heaven. Myrrh was an expensive perfume used to prepare the bodies of people who had died for burial. It covered the smell of the decaying body. What do these gifts tell us about Jesus? What would you give Jesus to represent who he is?**

Materials: Perfume to represent myrrh (smells musty or earthy), reed diffuser to represent frankincense (pine-lemon scent), Bibles.

February Activities

■ On January 24, remember the **Conversion of St. Paul**. Read the story of Paul's conversion [Acts 9:1-19]. Then read Acts 13:44-52. **Paul was sent to the Gentiles to tell them about God's love. In our world today there are people who need a Paul, someone to tell them about Jesus. There are people who haven't even heard of Jesus. Our parish supports missionaries working with those people.** Create a poster together about the country and missionary to hang up in your classroom. Begin to pray for that country every time you meet. **Materials:** Bibles, information about a country where your parish supports a missionary, picture of the missionary, printout of a map of the country, poster board, writing and coloring utensils.

■ Talk about **Ash Wednesday** and Lent on February 21. **Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time to focus on our sin and our need for Jesus' death and resurrection. It is common to give something up. Instead of giving something up, let's add a behavior to help us live more like Jesus.** Write brainstormed ideas on a whiteboard. Have each student write one of the ideas on an index card and commit to adding the behavior by signing the card. Encourage them to place the card where they will see it and remember.

Materials: Index cards, writing utensils, whiteboard and markers (or a similar alternative).

BACK IN TIME

(use on January 10)

Julia Chester Emery

1852–1922

In 1876, at 24 years old, Julia Chester Emery became Secretary (executive director) of the Women's Auxiliary of the Episcopal Church's Board of Missions. She held this position for 40 years, supporting missionaries in the field. Under her leadership, the organization grew until every diocese had its own branch. The Women's Auxiliary set long-term goals, raised money needed for missions, and educated adults and children about the importance of missions. Julia especially recruited young women for missions. The Auxiliary also served as an advocate for women in the church, helping to gain their first representation in church government. Even after retirement, Julia continued to serve. She wrote a book called *Century of Endeavor*, an important record of the church's missionary activities up until 1921. Julia's lifetime support of missions helped Episcopalians do their part in carrying out the Great Commission.



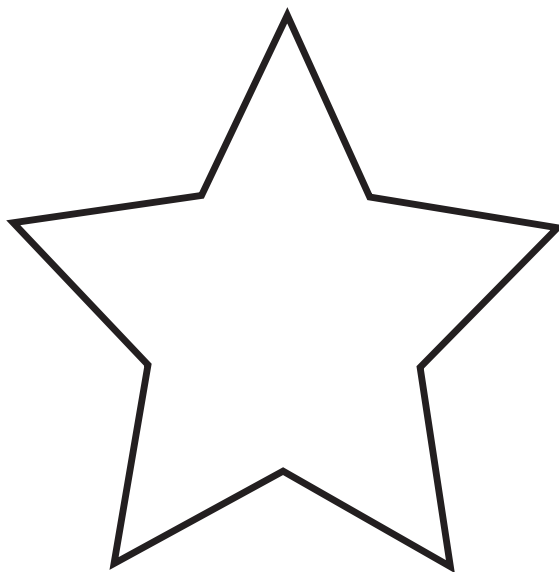
Back in Time: Discussion

How might Julia Emery work at spreading the Gospel and Christian knowledge today? How might she use the Internet? Social Media? Texting? Challenge your students to use some of their ideas and follow Emery's example. Remind them that the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) is for all believers. Use the prayers for the mission of the church on page 257 of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer to lead your class in a prayer time for all nations.

Materials: Prayer book, Bible.



star sign



sprinkle template



In the Great Commission, Jesus said to tell the whole world about His love!



Ash Wednesday Bracelets

Yellow reminds us of heaven.

Black represents sin.

On Ash Wednesday, which we celebrate this week, we sometimes get little black crosses put on our forehead. This reminds us that we have sin in our lives and need God's forgiveness and love. **Red** reminds us that Jesus loves us so much that He died for us. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a time to think about Jesus' death. **White** reminds us that Jesus' love covers our sin, so God doesn't see the wrong things we do anymore. His love makes us clean and white like snow. But we don't stop there. **Green** reminds us to keep growing, to get to know God better and better.

Ash Wednesday Bracelets

Yellow reminds us of heaven.

Black represents sin.

On Ash Wednesday, which we celebrate this week, we sometimes get little black crosses put on our forehead. This reminds us that we have sin in our lives and need God's forgiveness and love. **Red** reminds us that Jesus loves us so much that He died for us. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a time to think about Jesus' death. **White** reminds us that Jesus' love covers our sin, so God doesn't see the wrong things we do anymore. His love makes us clean and white like snow. But we don't stop there. **Green** reminds us to keep growing, to get to know God better and better.

Ash Wednesday Bracelets

Yellow reminds us of heaven.

Black represents sin.

On Ash Wednesday, which we celebrate this week, we sometimes get little black crosses put on our forehead. This reminds us that we have sin in our lives and need God's forgiveness and love. **Red** reminds us that Jesus loves us so much that He died for us. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a time to think about Jesus' death. **White** reminds us that Jesus' love covers our sin, so God doesn't see the wrong things we do anymore. His love makes us clean and white like snow. But we don't stop there. **Green** reminds us to keep growing, to get to know God better and better.

Ash Wednesday Bracelets

Yellow reminds us of heaven.

Black represents sin.

On Ash Wednesday, which we celebrate this week, we sometimes get little black crosses put on our forehead. This reminds us that we have sin in our lives and need God's forgiveness and love. **Red** reminds us that Jesus loves us so much that He died for us. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a time to think about Jesus' death. **White** reminds us that Jesus' love covers our sin, so God doesn't see the wrong things we do anymore. His love makes us clean and white like snow. But we don't stop there. **Green** reminds us to keep growing, to get to know God better and better.