THE ADVENT MISSION

Studying the Bible correctly is more important than simply getting the right answers. In math classes, students are graded more on the process they used than their answer. It sometimes took our church decades to adopt certain beliefs or practices because God wanted us to reach the conclusion the right way.

Adventist mission is based on the Great Commission in Matthew 28. This chapter emphasizes each Christian’s responsibility to share the gospel. Our first official missionary, J.N. Andrews, was sent to Switzerland about ten years after our church was founded. Michael Chehowski had previously done some unofficial missionary work but hadn’t told any of the new believers about the Seventh-day Adventist church organization. Some of those believers learned about it and sent word to Battle Creek, and Andrews went with the commendation that “we sent you the ablest man in all our ranks” (Ellen White, Manuscript Releases, vol. 5 [1990], 436). Andrews had lost his wife two years prior, but went with his son Charles, then twelve, and daughter Mary, then sixteen. Both children helped start a publishing house and an Adventist periodical in French.

By the end of the century, missionaries were going to the South Pacific, Africa, Asia, and South America. This work was not easy; they had to travel by ship, communication with the church in America was slow, and they often had to build the membership and church building from scratch. Stories about these pioneers’ fortitude are truly inspiring. There’s still a great need for missionaries today. Could God be calling you?
Write out Matthew 28:19, 20 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
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Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse.
Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What kind of shortcuts do we try to take to make Jesus’ commission to take the gospel to the whole world easier?

What are ways we can fulfill the gospel commission at home?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/SDAH13-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Why do you think Jesus didn’t make any major public appearances after His resurrection?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/SDAH13-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Matthew 28:19, 20?

Luke 10:2
Luke 19:10
Matthew 24:14
2 Corinthians 5:17–20
Psalms 67
Romans 10:13–15
Revelation 14:6
Acts 10:34, 35
Acts 1:8

What other verses come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Matthew 28:19, 20.
What are some ways we can begin small when it comes to going and sharing the gospel?

What are some excuses we tend to make when we read the Great Commission? What excuses do you make?

What are some ways to find missionary opportunities, whether it be in your community or overseas?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through these texts?

Prayer Response:
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what must you change in your life?

What are some practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/SDAH13-7
Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Our early missionaries went to unreached countries with an unpopular message. How does this compare to our vision of missionary work today?

Why do you think we see fewer missionaries in our church today?

How does connecting God's power with the Great Commission affect your understanding of our ability to fulfill it?

Do you think the disciples understood the scope of the commission when it was given? Why or why not?

Do you think the church has done well with the teaching part of the Great Commission both before and after baptism? Why or why not? What are some ways we could improve?

What role does the local church play in the Great Commission?

How does the Great Commission apply to the evangelists and pastors? To the laypeople?