

Session 10: Wrap-up and Commitment

Objectives:

- Understand that before we mobilize others, we must first embrace God's mission in our own hearts and begin living it out
- Reflect on the value of working together for greater effectiveness in mobilization
- Think through ongoing ways of mobilizing families in their own spheres of influence
- Plan individual next steps in applying the training concepts

Teaching Time: 1 hour 30 minutes (with certificates), 2 hours 30 minutes with translation

Materials:

- Teapot or coffee pot
- (Option 1) Kachala Family First Steps video: <https://vimeo.com/246524792>
- (Option 2) Printed story of the Kachala story included in this script or a personal story of a family who is mobilizing their children to be a part of God's mission to the unreached
- Equipment for showing the video, if using it
- Session 10 handout (one for each participant)
- Training Evaluation Form (one for each participant)
- (optional) BIG Story certificate of completion

Getting Ready:

1. Familiarize yourself with the root vegetable story so that you can tell it with expression and actions. Choose a root vegetable that is common in your culture.
2. If you are showing the Kachala Family First Steps video, set up the video and screen.
3. (Optional) Copy and fill out a completion certificate for each participant.
4. Pass out Session 10 handouts right before you begin.

Introduction

During this training, we have shared a grand vision with you, a vision of what can happen in the hearts and lives of families who are mobilized to embrace God's purposes and live out their role in His big story.

This vision is a grand vision because it transcends this generation; it reaches beyond the borders of ____ [country name] to impact unreached people groups, and ultimately brings God the glory He deserves.

Heart of the Leader

When it comes to making this vision a reality, where do we begin? (Point to your heart.) Right here ... in our own hearts.

Teapot Illustration

Our lives are like a teapot/coffee pot. Consider the teapot (hold up).

Teapots come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and designs.

What is the most important thing about a teapot? Not the seen, but the unseen, what is on the inside.

It must be clean, empty, and ready to receive.

It cannot fill itself, but waits to be filled.

Where is the opening for filling? On the side? On the bottom? No, on the top. It is filled from above.

Sometimes there is a season of waiting while the tea inside “brews”.

It is designed for a purpose. The spout is for pouring out what has been received.

It has a handle, but cannot pour itself. The teapot’s owner must determine when and where it is ready to be poured out.

The teapot is totally dependent on the owner for everything that fills it up, and every act of usefulness.

Discussion

Turn to a few people around you and discuss this question: In what other ways are our lives like a teapot?

(After about five minutes, let a few people share observations.)

Sometimes we charge ahead, believing that our intelligence, preparation, and creative gifts are the things that are needed by God to make this grand vision happen.

We soon realize that these cannot be useful to God without the attitudes of dependence and humility.

(Tip teapot as if pouring) In Philippians 2:17, Paul said he was being poured out like a drink offering of sacrifice and service.

Paul could do this because of God. (Open lid of teapot) God was pouring His love (Romans 5:5), His grace and His Holy Spirit (Acts 10:45) into Paul ... so that Paul could pour out to others.

It is the same with us as parents, and as leaders in our local churches. We cannot impart a vision to our own children or to the families or other workers in our churches if we do not already embrace it ourselves.

As we move forward in making the grand vision of family mobilization a reality, we must ask God to give us His love, His grace, His wisdom, and His guidance.

Prayer

(Invite the group to stand and hold out their hands palms up. Lead the group in a prayer similar to this.)

*God we come to You with empty hands, with trusting hearts.
We confess our need to depend on You in all areas of our lives.
We ask for Your wisdom and guidance as we mobilize the children and families You have entrusted to us.
For Your glory ... Amen.*

Working Together

During this training we have emphasized God's Word as a key resource in mobilizing families to embrace God's mission.

Look around this room. Look at the people beside you, in front of you, behind you. People are also one of your best resources as you move forward. I would like to tell you a story about working together.

Potato (Root Vegetable) Story

Note: Make sure to use a root vegetable that is common in your culture (turnip, potato, yam, cassava, etc.)

Option: Invite people from the group to help you act out the story. It is best if you play the part of the farmer. Call volunteers up one at a time when their part appears in the story. Invite actors to hold onto the waist of the person directly in front of them.

Farmer

Once there was a farmer who loved his vegetable garden. He planted potatoes and waited for them to grow. At last, his potatoes were ready to harvest. As the farmer was pulling up the potatoes, something caught his eye. One potato was much bigger than the others. It was *enormous*! The farmer grabbed hold of the vine. He pulled and pulled and pulled, but he could not pull it out. So the farmer called his wife to help.

Mama

Mama held on to Papa, Papa held on to the potato vine, and together they pulled and pulled and pulled, but they could not pull it out. So the woman called her son to help.

Boy

Boy held on to Mama, Mama held on to Papa, Papa held on to the potato vine, and together they pulled and pulled, but they could not pull it out. So Boy called his sister to help.

Girl

Girl held on to Boy, Boy held on to Mama, Mama held on to Papa, Papa held on to the potato vine, and together they pulled and pulled and pulled, but they could not pull it out. So Sister called the dog to help.

Dog

Using his teeth, Dog held onto Girl, Girl held on to Boy, Boy held on to Mama, Mama held on to Papa, Papa held on to the potato vine, and together they pulled and pulled and pulled, but they could not pull it out. So Dog called the cat to help.

Cat

Using his teeth, Cat held onto Dog's tail, Dog held onto Girl, Girl held on to Boy, Boy held on to Mama, Mama held on to Papa, Papa held on to the potato vine, and together they pulled and pulled and pulled, but they could not pull it out. So the cat looked around. The cat listened and heard a soft scratching sound. It was a mouse (or rat). So Cat called Mouse (Rat) to help.

Mouse (Rat)

Using his teeth, Mouse (Rat) held on to Cat's tail, Cat held onto Dog, Dog held onto Girl, Girl held onto Boy, Boy held on to Mama, Mama held on to Papa, Papa held on to the potato vine, and together they pulled and pulled and pulled and *pop!* ... the potato came out of the ground. Everyone cheered with joy. Afterwards, they all enjoyed a nice vegetable soup.

Discussion

(Lead a discussion using this question.) From this story, what did you observe about working together?

(Participants' suggestions may include some of the following ideas.)

- The task was so big that everyone was needed.
- Recruiting others to help was important.
- The contribution of every individual was equally important.
- Each one set aside disagreements for the sake of the task. (dog/cat and cat/mouse)
- Success was enjoyed by everyone.

Do you remember the activity with the pastor, evangelist, and missionary? We learned that the Great Commission task of reaching the unreached is huge!

We need all believers working together in God's mission--this includes, mothers, fathers, and children.

Each of you has gifts, talents, and skills to contribute. You are stronger together than you are alone.

Together, you can create more resources and tools to equip the ____ [insert your country] church, to equip ____ [insert your country] families, to raise a generation of ____ [insert your country] children who desire to know Jesus and make Him known.

Empowering and Training Others

What if you were not the only parents in your community who were mobilizing your sons and daughters at home?

What if you were not the *only* leader in your church who were mobilizing the families in your congregation?

Parents, you have influence among other parents in your church or community. You can model what it looks like to be a world Christian family and invite other families to join with you in praying, sending, and welcoming.

Church leaders, the parents in your church will need ongoing support to understand what mobilization is and what it looks like in practical terms. So will the other church workers you invite to help you support this vision.

Small Group Discussion

What will effective mobilization of families look like here in __ [insert country name]? How do we practically engage and equip other parents and other leaders to be a part of God's mission?

I would like you to gather into groups of 4 to 6 people to discuss this question.

As a group, brainstorm general ideas of how you can pass on what you have learned during this training to others. They could be parents you are friends with or parents in your school or church. They could be other children's teachers or pastors. I will give you 10 minutes to discuss.

(Allow the group 10 minutes to gather and discuss ideas. When the time is up, allow 3 or 4 groups to share one of the ideas they came up with. As participants share ideas, adjust and add ideas if needed to keep the focus on mobilizing towards God's mission. Here are some ideas you may want to add.)

- Keep biblical responsibility before parents. Explore passages of Scripture like Deuteronomy 6:4-7 together.
- Help parents think through the long-term view of mobilizing their children at home (2 Timothy 1:5). Give parents the grand vision of not only influencing the faith of their children, but also their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
- Emphasize consistency. Parents need to know that mobilization is ongoing and that it happens in the context of daily life. Demonstrate the everyday objects and moments activity with parents and then let them practice.
- Share the development chart on how to mobilize children at different ages.
- Model a Bible lesson on blessing and purpose so parents and leaders can see what teaching Scripture with a God-centered focus looks like.
- Set up an activity where parents learn how to pray for the world in a child-friendly way that they can use in their home.
- Create a safe environment for parents to ask questions, express concerns, share successes, and learn from each other.
- Provide opportunities for parents and leaders to share testimonies of how embracing God's heart and purposes impacts the way they disciple their children. Let them share any changes they see in children as a result of discipling with this vision.
- Create opportunities for parents and their children to serve and do outreach together.
- Invite others to join your family as you practice World Christian habits. This could involve learning about and praying for the unreached, serving together, caring for a global worker, or reaching out to those who do not know Jesus.

Each of you has the potential to mobilize many other families to join with God in His big story. How you do that may look different in each situation and context.

No matter who you are mobilizing, they will need encouragement, modeling, hands-on experiences, and practical tools.

You can use and adapt many of the activities from The BIG Story training to inspire and equip other parents and leaders.

First Steps

Any journey starts with a first step. I would like to share a story of a family's mobilization journey, including their first steps.

Personal Story of First Steps

[Option 1: Play the Kachala Family First Steps video. Option 2: Read the Kachala family story below. Option 3: Insert your own story about an individual/family's first steps in family mobilization.]

Reuben and Elizabeth Kachala live in Malawi with their children Maya and Paul. Reuben first heard about God's heart for the world while studying at Bible College. As he prayed for the nations in chapel, God touched Reuben's heart for the unreached peoples who have no access to the gospel. Reuben realized that his whole family, including his two young children, could participate in God's mission. He returned home and began preparing them.

Reuben's first step was to hang up a world map in their home. As a family, they laid their hands on the map and prayed for countries with many unreached peoples. They also used games to help their children learn more about the peoples of the world.

Both Reuben and his wife talked about God's mission and helped their children understand how they could use their talents to glorify God and participate in blessing the nations. As a family, the Kachalas helped send out global workers from Malawi and spent a season as goers in India. After returning home to Malawi, they routinely welcomed those from unreached people groups living right in their own city and mobilized other believers to become involved in God's mission.

Now it is time to think about what your first step will be when you go back home to your family, or, as you continue to lead the families in your church.

Next Steps Activity

During our time together, God may have spoken to you about something specific that He wants you to do. For others, you may need more time to think about what you have seen and heard.

Maybe your first step is prayer, or starting a *Parenting with a Global Vision* study with someone else who serves alongside you like a pastor, teacher, or your spouse.

[Optional: If you are already planning to offer and lead a *Parenting with a Global Vision* study for participants of this training, announce it here and share pertinent information with the group. If not, move to the next section.]

For some, the first step is a small step. For others, it may be a big step. Either way, it is a step in the right direction.

On your handout, is an outline of two footsteps. On the footsteps, write what your first step will be. If you came with your spouse or with a group from your church, you can discuss it and do it together if you want to. You may also think about this by yourself.

Copy your answer onto your evaluation sheet after the question “What next steps will you take?” (Show participants this section on their evaluation.)

(Allow 8-10 minutes for participants to work through the activity.)

Sharing Time

We have had an amazing time together during this training. We would love to hear how God is leading each of you in your journey.

Would anyone like to share what his first step will be?

(Allow participants to share their first step responses. Make sure someone records the stories that are shared)

Certificates

(If you are handing out certificates to participants, do that now. If not, move on to the closing.)

This certificate certifies that you have completed the BIG Story Training.

When I call your name, please come to the front to receive your certificate.

(Read each name and shake the participant’s hand as you give him the certificate.)

Closing

It is likely that each of you are leaving here changed.

Hopefully you have encountered God in new ways and have gained a greater vision for mobilizing the children in your home.

Thank you for letting us be here with you. It has been an honor to share with you and to learn from your own experiences, as well.

Before we finish, we want to commit your first steps to God and commission you to mobilize your children and other families for God’s mission.

(Have the participants stand. Pray a commissioning pray over them, or invite someone on the national/local team to close with a commissioning prayer.)