Session 11: Wrap-up and Commitment

***Objectives:***

* Understand that making this vision a reality begins at the heart level and includes embracing God’s global purpose in their own lives
* Reflect on the value of working together for greater effectiveness in mobilizing children
* Plan participants’ next steps in applying the training concepts to their sphere of influence

***Teaching Time:*** 45 minutes, 1 hour with translation

***Materials:***

* teapot or coffee pot
* prepared short story of your first step into missions mobilization
* Next Steps footprints handout (one for each participant) from the Teaching Aids folder
* (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. Think about your first step into mission mobilization and be ready to share your story briefly.
3. (Optional) Copy and fill out a completion certificate for each participant.
4. If a mobilization team will be present, invite them to prepare a few suggestions of ways that participants might partner with them.
5. There is no lesson handout for this final session. You can pass out the footprints handout right before that activity.

Introduction

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

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 … with the heart of the leader.

Each of us came to these sessions as learners. But we are also all leaders - parents who lead our sons and daughters at home, teachers who lead children at church.

Teapot Illustration

Our lives as leaders are like a teapot/coffee pot. Consider the teapot (hold yours 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: How are our lives as children’s leaders 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 leaders. We cannot give children what we do not already possess. As we move forward in making the grand vision of children’s 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 serve the children You have entrusted to us.*

*For Your glory … Amen.*

Working Together

In an earlier session, we said that your Bible is one of your best resources.

Look round this room. Look at the people beside you, in front or 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.

When we think about mobilizing children and families, 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.

First Steps

Any journey starts with a first step. My journey began with a first step. I would like to share with you how my journey began and my first step.

Personal Story of First Steps

[Insert your own story about your first steps in mobilization. Here is an example.]

I was a teacher and always loved working with children, both at school and at church. When I was about 40 years old, I took a course where I learned about God’s plan to receive worship from all peoples. It was the first time I had heard about unreached peoples, people who could not worship God because they had never heard about Him. I prayed to God and asked, “Why did I not know this earlier? Instead of teaching school, I might have done something different with my life!”

And God said, “Now that you know, what are you going to do so that the next generation understands what is on my heart and has the opportunity to make choices based on my priorities?”

And so I started. My first step was finding out what my local church was already doing to help global workers and making sure that the children had a part. I learned that my church was raising money for a van to help a global worker in his ministry. I asked if the children could raise money for the tires. And we did. The children collected enough money for 4 tires and 2 spare tires!

Foot Activity

Now it is time to think about what your first step will be when you go back to your church, when you go home to your family.

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 sharing what you have learned with someone else who serves alongside you like a pastor, teacher, or your spouse.

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.

(Pass out one footprint to each participant.) On this foot, write what your first step will be. If you came 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.

(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 is?

(Allow participants to share their first step responses.)

Local Team

(If there are local mobilizers present, introduce them to participants at this point. If not, skip this section and go to the closing.)

These people are “boots on the ground” that can help you move forward in this mobilization vision. (Allow local mobilizers to introduce their team, work, vision, and ways that participants can partner with them.)

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 The BIG Story Training. You are now qualified to mobilize children and other adults in your homes, churches, and other spheres of influence.

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 captured a greater vision for raising the children in your home or teaching the children in your church.

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 go mobilize children 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.)