# Session 9: Empowering and Training Others

***Objectives:***

* Understand the importance of passing on the vision of mobilization to others
* Learn one tool for casting the mobilization vision to adults
* Learn practical, ongoing ways to empower children’s teachers at church
* Learn practical, ongoing ways to empower and support parents at home

***Teaching Time:***  75 minutes, 1 hour 30 minutes with translation

***Materials:***

* Bible
* Session 9 handout for each participant
* Chart paper/markers, chalkboard/chalk, white board/markers, or overhead/markers
* Developing a Mission-Minded Heart in Children chart (Session 4)

***Getting Ready:***

1. Print out the first page of the Developing a Mission-Minded Heart in Children chart.
2. Gather your materials for The Window diagram.
3. Familiarize yourself with The Window diagram script in this document.
4. Pass out the Session 9 handout before you begin.

Introduction  
We just learned about the kind of mobilization that leads to long-term transformation in children. How many of you are getting excited about going back to your families and churches to try out some of the ideas you have learned in this training? Raise your hands. (Allow participants to respond.)

What if you were not the *only* teacher at your church that was mobilizing children? What if you were not the *only* believing parent in your neighborhood that was mobilizing their sons and daughters?

Is there a way to make this vision multiply and spread more widely?

In this session, we will give you some ways to reproduce yourself – to cast a grand vision for other adults – a vision of God’s global heart and purposes and the strategic ways that we, and our children, can partner with God in advancing His kingdom.

Primarily, this will be with children’s teachers at church and other parents. It can also extend to leaders in other Christian organizations who are serving children.

It is always a good idea to include pastors when you cast this vision. If church leaders understand and embrace the vision of mobilization, they are more likely to support efforts by teachers and parents.

Casting the Vision  
For most people you share with, this grand vision will be brand new. It will take a shift in their hearts and minds. It will also lead to a shift in the way they minister to children. How will you approach people in light of this shift?

We can approach people like a dictator giving a mandate – “You will do this!”

We can approach people like an expert dumping our knowledge onto others – “I learned this new thing at a training and now we are all going to do it.”

Or we can approach people as a peer, on a relational level. We can first cast a vision and then invite them to join us.

Think about these three different approaches. Which one is most likely to bring about a willingness to listen, to embrace what you say, and carry through? (Allow participants to respond.)

The Window  
I want to share one tool you can use as you begin to mobilize church leaders, teachers, or parents.

Introduction to the Window

This tool is called The Window because the diagram you will make looks like a window with four panes of glass. You have this diagram on your handout.

(Draw a rectangle. Divide it into four boxes of equal size.)

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You can use The Window diagram with one person or a large group.

It uses concepts that you have already learned in this training: God’s Word, God’s World, and God’s Work. (Label the boxes as shown below.)

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| --- | --- |
| God’s Word | God’s World |
| God’s Work |  |

In each of these boxes, you will share five things.

(Point to the God’s Word box.) First you will share five verses, taken from both the Old and New Testament, that describe God’s love for the peoples of the world and His plans for them. We have talked about these verses in earlier sessions.

(List the verse references in this order in the God’s Word box: Genesis 12:1-3, Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 49:6, Matthew 28:19-20, Revelation 7:9.)

(Point to the God’s World box.) Next you will talk about the current state of the world and briefly share about the five major belief systems of unreached peoples. The first is tribal. Who can tell me the other four?

(Have volunteers respond. Then list the belief systems in this order in the box: Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious/atheist, Muslim, and Buddhist.)

(Point to the God’s Work box.) Then you will talk about how we can join with God in His work by describing the five World Christian Habits: Praying is one. What are the other four?

(Have volunteers respond. List the habits in this order in the box: Praying, Welcoming, Sending, Going, and Mobilizing.)

(Point to the remaining box.) Here, you will ask for a personal response from the person you are sharing with.

(Draw a large question mark in the box. Beneath it, make a line that begins at 0 and ends at 10.)

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This number scale will help you gauge your listener’s understanding of, as well as their current level of participation in, God’s mission. It serves as a conversation starter to explore what your next step will be.

Demonstration of the Window

We have previewed all the components of diagram. Now I am going to demonstrate The Window for you.

I need one volunteer to be the person with whom I will share. (Call up a volunteer and seat them near the diagram you are using. Make sure the group can see and hear you.)

You have the diagram and the complete script on your handout. For now, just watch the demonstration.

(Turn to your volunteer and begin.)

God created and loves all the peoples of the world. He desires for them to know and worship Him.

God invites us, as believers, to join with Him in carrying out His plans for the nations.

I would like to share a diagram with you. It will help us better understand God’s heart for the world, His global purpose, and what our role is as followers of Christ.

(Point to the diagram.) To join with God in the most strategic way possible, there are three areas we need to explore.

(Point to each box.) God’s Word, God’s World, and God’s Work.

Let us start with God’s Word. Do you know a verse that speaks about God’s love for the world? (Allow your volunteer to respond. Write the reference for his verse in the box labeled God’s Word. If he cannot think of a verse, just move on.)

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is full of verses that tell of God’s love for the nations. We will look at five. (In the upper corner of the God’s Word box, write the number “5.”)

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| God’s Word 5  Genesis 12:1-3 Psalm 46:10 Isaiah 49:6 Matthew 28:19-20 Revelation 7:9 |

(Use your Bible to read Genesis 12:1-3.) Genesis 12:1-3 says,

*The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”* (Genesis 12:1-3)

God’s promise of blessing is not only for Abraham and his family. God loves and desires to bless all the peoples of the earth.   
  
(Now read Psalm 46:10.) Psalm 46:10 says,

*Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted  
in the earth.* (Psalm 46:10)

What does this verse tell you about God? (Allow your volunteer to respond.) God’s plan is sure. He will not rest until He accomplishes it. Some day every nation will worship and exalt Him.

(Now read Isaiah 49:6.) In Isaiah 49:6, God speaks about His servant, Jesus.

*It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back  
those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.* (Isaiah 49:6)

What does this verse say about the scope of Jesus’ saving work? (Allow your peer to respond.)

(Now read Matthew 28:19-20.) In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says,

*Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* (Matthew 28:19-20)

What global command did Jesus give to His followers? (Allow your peer to respond.) This command continues to show God’s heart and plan for all peoples.

(Now read Revelation 7:9.) Revelation 7:9 says,

*After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.* (Revelation 7:9)

Who did the apostle John see in this vision of heaven? (Allow your volunteer to respond.) This is the ultimate fulfillment of God’s desire and plan.

God desires to reach all nations and peoples with His gospel. In light of this, what does the world look like today?

More than one third of the world population lives in cultures with no access to the gospel. These unreached people have never heard about Jesus. Almost all follow one of five major belief systems.

(In the upper corner of the God’s World box, write the number “5.”) Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious or atheist, Muslim, or Buddhist. Have you ever heard of any of these groups? Do you know someone who is part of one of these groups? (Allow your volunteer to respond.)

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| God’s World 5  Tribal  Hindu Unreligious/atheist Muslim Buddhist |

Tribal people do not know that their creator God loves them or wants to have a relationship with them. They believe in powerful spirits who live in nature. They fear these spirits and offer gifts and sacrifices to appease them.

Hindus believe in millions of different gods. They worship and pray to idols of these gods. They believe in reincarnation, a cycle in which they are continually reborn. They believe that a person’s actions in this life will determine the quality of his next life.

Unreligious people do not believe that God exists. They trust in their own intelligence and hard work to explain the world and meet their needs.

Muslims follow the religion of Islam. They believe in one god, Allah. They strive to please Allah by their good actions. They hope that if their good actions outweigh their bad actions, they will go to heaven.

Buddhists believe that every person contains a part of god within himself. By their own actions, they strive to empty their minds of selfish desires, escape suffering, and reach a state of ultimate peace.

In our churches, only a small part of our global mission efforts focus on these groups who do not have access to the gospel. About 10 percent of global workers serve in unreached cultures. Out of all money given for missions, about two percent goes to work among the unreached.

In light of God’s Word and the needs in God’s world, how can believers be strategic as we engage in God’s work? We can serve by practicing 5 World Christian Habits.

(In the upper corner of the God’s Work box, write the number “5.”) These habits are praying, sending, welcoming, going, and mobilizing.

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| God’s Work 5  praying sending welcoming going mobilizing |

When we *pray*, we do not only pray for our own needs, but also intercede for the unreached peoples.

When we *send*, we partner with global workers by praying for them, giving them money, and caring for their needs as they minister.

When we *welcome*, we look for people from other cultures that live right around us. We become their friends and look for opportunities to introduce them to Jesus.

When we *go*, we are willing to move to a new culture where people have no way of knowing about Jesus.

When we *mobilize*, we share God’s global heart and purposes with others and invite them to join us as we partner with God. We also help connect them to ways they can live strategically to advance God’s purposes.

Do you know anyone who is serving in any of these five ways? (Allow your volunteer to respond.)

Why do you think we call these World Christian *Habits* and not *choices*? (Allow your volunteer to respond.)

So far we have looked at God’s Word and seen how He desires to reach all peoples.

Then we looked at God’s World and have a better understanding of the task remaining.

We just looked at the five habits, strategic ways that believers can serve to advance God’s global purposes.

Now it is time to take an honest assessment of our own lives as believers. (Point to the line in the last box.)

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On this continuum, z*ero* means I have never heard any of this until today. This is all new to me. *Ten* means I understand God’s global heart and purposes. I understand the situation of unreached peoples. I am practicing the World Christian habits with the vision of seeing the Great Commission completed. Where are you on this continuum? (Allow your volunteer to respond.)

(Thank the volunteer and let him sit down.)

At this point, you will need to adjust what you do next, depending on your audience.

If you are sharing with an individual like I just did, you might point to your diagram and ask a question: Which of these areas interests or excites you? What was surprising to you? Which area would you like to learn more about?

The person’s response will determine your next step.

For example, what if my volunteer said, “I thought the Old Testament was about God’s relationship with the people of Israel. I never knew it talked about God’s heart for the nations. I would like to learn more about that.” What might your next step be?

Maybe you could invite him to study more verses about God’s heart for the nations with you. Maybe you could look at familiar Old Testament stories together, using the framework we learned in an earlier session: Who does God bless? What is God’s greater purpose for the blessing?

When you share The Window with one person, you can customize what you say here (point to the last box) to meet their expressed needs.

If you were presenting The Window to a large group of teachers or parents, you would conclude in a different way when you get to the last box.

You need to connect the ideas from this chart to the children in their classes and homes. You could pose a set of questions like this:

(Point to the continuum line in the box.) Now think about the children in our homes and church classes. Where would *they* fall on this continuum?

1. Do our kids know that God loves the world as much as He loves them, and that His plan for the world is revealed throughout the Bible? (Point to the God’s Word box.)
2. Do they know that many people have never had a chance to hear about Jesus? (Point to the God’s World box.)
3. Do they know that God invites them to play a part in what He is doing to make Himself known among the nations – now, while they are still young? (Point to the God’s Work box.)

Moving forward, this is our new vision for the children that we teach at church, for the children in our families.

We will begin training you how to help your children understand and embrace God’s mission in a way that is appropriate for them at their age.

To conclude this initial meeting where you are casting a vision, it would be appropriate to spend some time in prayer. If you are addressing a group of parents, allow husbands and wives to pray together.

If you are sharing with teachers, invite people to pray in pairs or in small groups.

Let us do that right now. Stand up and get with a partner. Pray for the people that you may share this vision with in the future. Pray for parents and teachers and church leaders to grasp this great vision of God’s mission and how children and families can join with Him.

(After 5 minutes, call the group back together.)

Ongoing Mobilization and Support

You have just seen The Window demonstration. It is a great tool to help you cast vision. But casting vision is just the beginning.

Sunday school teachers and parents will need ongoing support to see what this vision looks like in practical terms as they mobilize the children in their classes or homes.

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

Church

Now let us look at some specific ideas for mobilizing teachers at church in an ongoing way.

1. Use Scripture to demonstrate that you invite them to join you in this grand vision, and also entrust them to share it with others. Share the example of Paul and Timothy. In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul says,

*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.* (2 Timothy 2:2)

They are the reliable people who will continue to multiply this vision as they mobilize kids.

Make sure you invite all of your teachers to trainings, not just a few leaders. Everyone can learn how to mobilize children. Remember, we want to multiply the vision, not keep it in the hands of a few experts.

1. Emphasize that you are not adopting a new program or curriculum. This is a framework for how we look at and teach the truth of God’s Word to children. It puts God and His purposes in a central place.

It gives children an identity and life purpose as participants in God’s big story and invites them to be a part of what God is doing in their generation.

1. Give your teachers a guide for how to mobilize children at different ages.

(Hold up page 1 of the Developing a Mission-Minded Heart in Children.) Hand out the development chart you received during this training.

1. Provide training where you model lessons and activities for your teachers.

Model a Bible lesson so they can see what teaching Scripture with a God-centered focus looks like.

Set up an activity where teachers learn how to pray for the world in a kid-friendly way that they can use in their classroom.

If possible, hold smaller trainings for teachers working with specific age groups throughout the year.

1. Continue to inspire and encourage your teachers. Share testimonies of how embracing God’s heart and purposes has impacted the way you view and teach children. Share any changes you see in your kids as a result of teaching with this framework. Invite other teachers to share their stories as well.
2. Pray for your teachers and provide opportunities for them to pray for one another. Ask God to align their hearts with His heart and purposes for them and for the children they teach.

Home

Next we are going to look at some specific ideas for mobilizing parents and supporting them as they mobilize their children in the home.

Before we begin this section, I want to share something you may encounter. You will need to address this issue early on.

You cannot train parents to mobilize their children for God’s purposes if they are not even having conversations about Jesus in their homes. You may need to start by teaching parents to take on the responsibility of being the primary disciplers of their children. Then begin mobilizing them.

1. Keep biblical responsibility before your parents. Have a short devotion at the beginning of your meeting where you explore a passage of Scripture like Deuteronomy 6:4-7.

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.* (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

1. In order to help parents catch the vision of mobilizing their children at home, you will need to address their fear of not being qualified to lead and teach their children about spiritual things.

Remind them that:

* No one has been designed as perfectly as moms and dads to be the primary faith influencers of their children. It is God’s design for parents to influence the faith of their children for a lifetime.
* Parents do not need to know everything. They only need to be one step ahead of their children in their walk with God to be able to teach them.
* God did not choose them because they were perfect. All parents mess up. If children see that they truly love God and respond to Him in obedience, they will follow their parents’ lead.
* Parents are not alone. God will be their guide as they lead their children.
* God is faithful. He will do His part in the lives of their children.

1. After your initial vision-casting meeting, consider offering different classes to your parents throughout the year. Some of these might be geared toward parents of kids in specific age groups.
2. Provide resources that your parents can use at home. (Hold up page 1 of the Developing a Mission-Minded Heart in Children.) Hand out the development chart for growing a mission-minded heart. This will be very helpful for parents who have children at different stages.
3. Emphasize consistency. Parents need to know that mobilization is ongoing and that it happens in the context of daily life. Do you remember the everyday objects and moments activity from earlier in this training? Demonstrate that for your parents and then let them practice.
4. Help parents think through the long-term view of mobilizing their children at home. In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul says this to Timothy:

*I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.* (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.

1. Provide additional support by enlisting other parents from within your church community. Use the Titus 2 model of older men and women mentoring younger ones. Consider having parents who have already gone through a life stage with their children mentor parents who are just entering that stage.
2. Create a safe environment for parents to ask questions, express concerns, share successes, and learn from each other. One way to do this is to host panel discussions and invite parents to sit on the panel.
3. Provide lots of modeling and practice. Parents are much more likely to try ideas at home if they have seen someone else doing them and had opportunities to practice.
4. Create opportunities for parents and their children to serve and do outreach together.

Parents Mobilizing Other Parents

What if you are a parent who wants to pass on what you are learning about God’s heart for the world and His purposes … in an informal way … to other families around you? How do you invite other families to join your family on the journey?

Remember, mobilization is about relationship. Pray and ask God to show you another parent that you can begin to invest in. This person should be a believer, have a growing relationship with God, and be open and teachable.

Share The Window diagram with this parent in an informal conversation.

Invite their family to join you and your kids in what you are doing. This will help them see what having a heart for God and His purposes looks like.

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. Here is an example of what one family is doing to mobilize other families.

[Insert your own story of a family who is mobilizing other families. Here is an example.]

I know a family who reaches out to students from other cultures who are studying at the local university. They welcome them into their home, have meals together, play games, and celebrate special occasions like birthdays. The World Christian habit this family demonstrates is that of welcoming.

How do they become mobilizers? They invite another believing family who they know well to join them as they interact with these students from other cultures. This family learns how to develop a relationship with those from other cultures in a comfortable environment. After a few times, the second family is equipped to welcome those from other cultures into their home.

The first family has spread the vision and reproduced themselves … and so the mobilization process continues.

Conclusion

John Stott once said, “We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God."

You can go back home and mobilize the children in your family and classes by giving them a global vision of a global God who has a global work for them to do.

I challenge you to think even bigger! Mobilize other adults you know to do the same thing with their children.

Reproduce and multiply!