

Hosts- The BIG Story Training Host Guidelines

Coordinating Guidelines

Introduction of Training

Welcome! I hope you are ready to learn about an exciting training that will impact families, children, and potentially the world for Christ! This training is a powerful time that envisions, educates and engages participants in:

- the Biblical basis for missions
- the strategic value and role of children and families in God's kingdom
- the current state of the world
- practical ways to mobilize children and encourage mobilization habits in the home setting.

What: The BIG Story Training

Length: 2 eight-hour days (3 days with translation)

Who: Primarily parents. You can also include Sunday school leaders/teachers, pastors, and organizational children's workers who have influence on families.

Training Objective

This training was developed to equip parents and those who have influence in a family's life. Our aim is for participants to develop a biblical view of how God views children and their potential in the Kingdom, to create a paradigm shift of discipling children in God's mission, and to equip participants with beginning basic skills needed to launch children's mobilization in their home or influence families in their ministry.

Hosting a Training

Weave works in tandem with local ministry hosts to facilitate trainings. We come only by invitation. We cannot guarantee we can answer every invitation we receive, but our team will work with you to either launch a training in your country or invite you to a training happening nearby. Here are the responsibilities of each party in coordinating a BIG Story Training.

Trainers

For the first training, Weave will commit to provide two qualified trainers for the event. The trainers will cover their own expenses for travel, lodging and other accommodations. Trainers will also be responsible for bringing the needed teaching supplies.

Host

Each training requires a designated host. The host is usually the point person who extended the invitation to Weave Trainers to come do a BIG Story Training. The training host is responsible for selecting a training coordinator and team, as well as making sure all needed tasks for the training are completed. The host is responsible for being the point of contact with the trainers and answering any

questions they have. The host agrees to be responsible for covering all the costs associated with the training other than the costs covered by the trainers in getting to the event. (This is covered more in depth under Paying for the Event.)

Coordinator

It is the host's responsibility to select a training coordinator. The coordinator will oversee the event from start to finish and assemble an administrative team to assist in training logistics. It is the host's decision on whether they also want to coordinate the training or assign that role to someone more equipped to do so.

In addition to putting together the team required to host the training, the coordinator is also responsible for finding a venue, coordinating meals and breaks, promoting the event and printing handouts.

Each group of participants is different. The coordinator will know your group the best. Therefore, the contents of this manual are suggestions and not necessarily mandatory. It is the coordinator's job to make the decisions that will best serve your training group.

Administration

We suggest the coordinator create a team of 2-3 people that will help with administrative tasks prior to and during the training. This team will be in charge of:

- Assisting in inviting participants
- Keeping record of who has said they will attend the event
- Printing lesson handouts for participants
- Making nametags
- Taking attendance during each day of the training (Using a sign-in sheet works best for this.)
- Assisting with passing out materials during sessions
- Monitoring break times—releasing and gathering people

Prayer

Prayer is foundational. You cannot and should not hold this training without it. We suggest you gather with your team to saturate the training in prayer. Pray through every step leading up to the training as well as all throughout the training itself.

Optional: Recruit someone to lead a time of worship each morning of the training.

Who should you invite?

The training is geared specifically towards families, so focus on inviting parents. You can also invite Sunday school teachers, children's pastors, or any other workers who have influence in the life of children and their families. You should have 30-60 participants. In addition, we encourage you to invite the pastors of churches represented for the first two sessions of the training. They are welcome to stay

for the remainder of the training if they desire. This gives church leaders the opportunity to catch the vision of family mobilization so they can be a support to the entire church body.

We believe that a personal or face-to-face invitation is the best promotion tool you can use to recruit to the training. Other ways to could recruit include, but are not limited to: phone calls, e-mails, church announcement, etc. Again, you know your group best and know the best way to contact them.

You should aim to recruit and invite your participants at least 2 months prior to the training. This will allow participants to make the necessary arrangements to attend the training.

We encourage you to think about a strategic denominations or organization you could ask to partner with you in coordinating the training.

Training Accommodations

Venue

To host the training, you will need to decide on an easily accessible venue and make the necessary arrangements. Classroom settings work well for this training. Previous trainings have been held at bible colleges and church buildings.

Meals

In the training schedule we have allotted time for two breaks (one in morning and one in the afternoon) as well as a break for lunch each day of the training. We suggest you make arrangements to have meals served at the venue as well as provide small snacks and drinks during the break times.

Paying for the Event

There are a couple of options for how to pay for the training event. You could have participants pay a small fee, ask the churches and organizations involved to sponsor the event, or a combination of the two.

These fees or sponsorships should cover costs for renting the venue, meals and snacks, and printing and supplies.

By having participant fees, you raise the level of commitment of those coming. If they pay for something, they will be more likely to not waver in their attendance and it will be more meaningful.

If you decide to use participant fees, you should consider having some kind of pre-registration process. This will allow you to plan for such things as printing the right number of handouts, meal arrangements, and helps you know the status of your recruiting efforts.

Overview of Training Sessions and Objectives

SESSION 1: God's Big Story

- View the Bible as a unified story about God, His passion to be worshiped by all peoples, and His ongoing work of redeeming all nations.
- Understand missions to be joining God in accomplishing His global purposes.

SESSION 2: My Family in God's Story

- Explore foundations of family discipleship and how it is core to the completion of God's mission.
- Learn how to model discipleship through intentionality and consistency
- Discover what a mission minded family looks like

SESSION 3: Strategic Value of Children

- Comprehend the value of seeing children as agents of ministry vs. objects of ministry
- Understand how God has uniquely created children to be participants in His mission
- Visualize the end goal of children's mobilization

SESSION 4: Developing a Mission-minded Heart

- Understand development and how it affects a child's growth physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually
- Explore how we can develop a mission-minded heart from birth through age 18

SESSION 5: God's Word

- See that how we view and teach Scripture impacts our understanding of God, His purposes, and our own identity and role
- Understand the connection between God blessing His people and His desire for them to be a blessing to the nations
- Learn practical ways to incorporate elements of God's Word into their everyday moments in the home.

SESSION 6: God's World

- Overview the state of the world today and learn the difference between nation/people group, reached/unreached
- Understand beliefs of unreached peoples and the priority of sending global workers and resources to them
- See the increasing opportunities for the Church in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the opportunity for this generation of children to complete the Great Commission

SESSION 7: God's Work

- Understand that God is the author of history and is always active in the world.
- Know that God invites our kids to be a part of what He is doing in their generation.
- Explore habits that exemplify a World Christian.

SESSION 8: The Motivation in Mission

- Examine the motivation of mobilization that leads to lifelong transformation
- Compare and contrast different models of mobilizing children
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SESSION 9: Living it Out Every Day

- Examine how to use Word, world and work to create an ongoing discipleship plan for your family
- Evaluate the benefits of a yearly family plan
- Introduce participants to available resources to help them begin their journey

SESSION 10: Wrap-Up

- 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

Suggested Schedule of Events

To complete the BIG Story Training, you will need to allot two FULL 8-hour days to it. The following schedule is created to help you understand how the trainer will break up the time. This schedule allows for two 10-15 min tea breaks and a 1-hour lunch break. We may choose to shorten these breaks if we are running behind schedule. If you would like to provide longer breaks, we would need to consider adding an additional day to complete the training.

Day 1:

Morning Part 1 (1.5 hours)

- Welcome and Devotion
- Training Introduction
- Session 1: God's BIG Story

Break (10-15 minutes)

Morning Part 2 (1 hour)

- Session 2: The Family and Mission

Lunch (1 hour)

Afternoon Part 1 (1.5- 2 hours)

- Game (optional)
- Session 3: Children are Strategic
- Session 4: Developing a Mission-minded Heart

Break (10-15 minutes)

Afternoon Part 2 (45 minutes)

- Session 5: God's Word
- Q & A and Wrap Up
- Dismiss

Day 2:

Morning Part 1 (1.5 hours)

- Devotion
- Session 6: God’s World

Break (10-15 minutes)

Morning Part 2 (1.5 hours)

- Session 7: God’s Work

Lunch (1 hour)

Afternoon Part 1 (1 hour)

- Session 8: The Motivation in Mission
- Session 9: Living it Out Everyday

Break (10-15 minutes)

Afternoon Part 2 (1 hour)

- Session 10: Wrap up and Commitment
- Certificate Presentation (optional)
- Dismiss

Time Fillers

Your trainer will be prepared with group games and videos that can be used to fill in spaces of time in between events, if needed. If you have a video that you feel would enhance learning, send it to the Weave Trainers to preview and approve before showing it during the training. You can do this during the time period you are preparing for the training.

Testimonials

Below are some testimonials of the impact of this training. You may use these to help promote the training and recruit to the event. A flier and other promotion material will be provided as well.

"I just want you to keep giving the training in different parts of the world because it’s really inspiring and it’s equipping people so we can reach the unreached in really short time ... Really God is doing a mighty thing..." – Parent, Ethiopia

"I have understood that making children disciples is a big burden ... so we have to teach parents to equip their children at home and take their part. We used to labor searching for teaching materials for children but now we have learnt how to prepare by our own." –Teacher, Rwanda