

Session 9: Living it Out Everyday

Objective:

- 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

Teaching Time: 20 minutes, 40 minutes with translation

Materials:

- Bible
- Session 9 handout for each participant
- (Recommended) A copy of the *Big Story Series* (<https://weavefamily.org/big-story-series/>) for each participant. You can also choose to distribute these to participants digitally. Speak with your local host about options.
 - * For questions about translating the *Big Story Series*, go to the web address shown above and click on the Contact Us link.
- (Optional) One copy of the *Big Story Series* resources
- (Optional) Computer and projector for showing samples of the *Big Story Series*
- (Optional) A copy of *Xplore* booklet

Getting Ready:

1. If participants will not have their own copy of the *Big Story Series* to look at, print out a copy of one page from each of the resources (One Big Story, One Big Vision, and One Big Adventure) to show as you discuss. If you plan to show samples of the *Big Story Series* using a computer and projector, set them up.
2. Pass out the Session 9 handout to participants before the session begins.
3. If you are distributing hard copies of the *Big Story Series* to participants, pass them out before the session begins.

Introduction

In the past few sessions, we have looked at practical ways to disciple our children in light of God's mission through three key areas: God's Word, world, and work.

We have also thought critically about how we talk about our part in God's mission with our children, emphasizing the importance of keeping the idea of joining with God in His big story as the main theme in our teachings and conversations.

Let's look at how we can utilize these components to build an ongoing, everyday discipleship plan for our children.

Incorporating the 3 Ws

As we learned in Session 2, discipleship takes intentionality. How will you intentionally disciple your children to understand, value, and live out God's desire to be known among the unreached?

It does not have to be complicated. It does not require the perfect program or resources. All you need is a Bible and world map.

The goal is to expose your children to God's purposes in His word, introduce them to the unreached peoples of the earth through learning about God's world, and to invite your children into God's work by provide ongoing opportunities to practice the five world Christian habits.

These three Ws - Word, world, and work - can be woven into your everyday life as a family.

1. God's Word

- Spend time reading God's word with your family. Aim to do this at least once a week.
- You can use a Bible or a children's storybook, whichever is age appropriate for your children.
- The key is to help your children see God's Word through the lens that this is His story. He is the main character. He blesses His people so they can be a blessing to the peoples of the earth.

2. God's World

- Be intentional in learning about the peoples of the world.
- Choose an unreached people group to focus on each month. Learn about that group's culture and beliefs. Include experiential learning opportunities as you teach.
- Keep a world map up in your home. Use it often to locate where people groups live, where current events are happening, or to see where global workers live.

3. God's Work

- Throughout the year, live out the World Christian habits. Make them a regular part of who your family is and what you do.
- Build prayer habits around your world learning.
- Financially invest in mission work among the unreached and look for ways to emotionally support those working among the unreached.
- Be a welcomer by building relationships with those in your community from different cultures.
- Mobilize other families to join you on this same journey.
- Be open to God calling your family to be goers yourselves.

Through all these things, God's story becomes common vocabulary in your home. Talk about it often. Let it be a natural part of your family's everyday life.

Think about your words and what you are communicating. Emphasize that what we do is done in relational collaboration with God.

Developing a Family Plan

Often we can look at all we want to teach our children and feel overwhelmed. Just as in other areas of life, having a goal or making a plan can help us you stay focused on the target of aligning your child's heart with God and His mission.

Life will get busy. Many distractions will come. That is just the nature of humanity, but distraction is also one of the tools the enemy can use to keep us from pursuing the nations.

When families are mobilized to be a part of God's story, it means more people praying for the unreached. It means more resources positioned towards workers and projects that bring the gospel to the unreached. It means a generation of believing children following Jesus and making His name known among the peoples of the earth.

Of course the enemy would love to distract you and your family from focusing your time, talents, and treasures on God's mission.

On your handout is a tool you can use to stay focused throughout the year. It is a simple family plan. (Allow participants time to locate the family plan on their handout.)

Every three months, think through what you want to learn about and do as a family for the quarter ahead.

Decide what you want to learn about God and which Bible verses you want to memorize. Think about which people groups or areas of the world you want to learn about. You can also think about how you want to practice the World Christian habits.

You can decide this along with your spouse, or you can invite your children to help you fill out your family plan. Then hang it somewhere in your home where you will see it each day. It will serve as a visible reminder throughout the months ahead of what is priority.

You can use this simple plan over and over again. It serves as a guideline for how you are discipling your children and joining God in His big story.

You can modify this plan to fit your family, adding additional categories or filling it out more or less frequently. Whatever works best for you!

A plan or a goal is only beneficial if it is obtainable for you. Do not feel the pressure to take on more than is within your capacity as parents.

Available Resources

While this training has given you everything you need to mobilize your children and the families in your community, there are follow-up resources that can help you as you leave this training and begin to integrate what you have learned into your life.

(Have participants locate the Resources for Personal Study section on their handout.)

Personal Study

What if you want to go deeper in your own learning about the concepts from this training? On your handout is a tool for you as parents and leaders to use in your personal study.

Do this one-week Bible study on God's mission, His heart for the world's peoples, and the World Christian habits.

Mobilizing Your Family

Next are some resources to help you begin to apply what you have learned.

The *Big Story Series* resources provide you, the parent, with the tools you need to incorporate Word, world and work into your discipleship at home.

(Option 1: Have participants locate their copy of the *Big Story Series*. Option 2: Hold up a copy of the *Big Story Series* or use a projector to display the samples as you go through the explanations below.)

There are three primary resources.

- *One Big Story* provides 52 family devotions that capture God's heart for the nations from Genesis to Revelation. It includes interactive lessons and family discussions.
- *One Big Vision* provides parents with 15 lessons on the five major world belief systems we covered in this training. Included with each lesson is a story about a child from an unreached people group and corresponding coloring page. Additional activities for teens are also included.
- *One Big Adventure* is a children's storybook that engages your child's imagination as they follow along with five children playing a part in God's story. Following the story is a review of the five World Christian habits and supplemental ideas for implementing them at home.

Additional supplement materials are available online that correspond with these resources, including the God's story people outlines like we used, memory verses, child-friendly prayer cards for unreached peoples, and a world map.

(If the host has not already made hard copies or digital copies available, inform the group how they can access the *Big Story Series* and supplemental materials online and point out the website on their handout, <https://weavefamily.org/big-story-series/>.)

Mobilizing Other Adults

In our closing session, we will be talking about ways to pass on the vision of mobilization to other adults. *Xplore* is a great tool for this. (Show a copy of the *Xplore* book, if available.)

Xplore is a 7-lesson study designed for you to do with a partner or with a small group. You could use this tool with a friend, other parents you know, or with a group of workers or leaders at your church.

Xplore covers all the same topics we covered in this training - God's overarching mission, unreached peoples, belief systems, and the five World Christian habits.

Xplore is a free, downloadable resource that comes in PDF format. You can download *Xplore* at the website link shown on your handout. (mobilization.org/resources/live-missionally/xplore/)