



Suggested Family Launch Meeting Plan

1.) Opening Prayer & Welcome

2.) John 5:39-40

SAY: In the opening of John 5, Jesus healed a man who had been disabled. The problem was that part of Jesus' instructions to the man was to pick up his mat... and it was the Sabbath. When the Jews saw the man carrying his mat, they became upset. When they learned Jesus had told him to do that, they began persecuting Jesus (John 5:16) and even wanted to kill him (John 5:18).

The rest of John 5 is Jesus' interaction with these Jews. Midway through the conversation, Jesus told them this:

You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me. But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life (John 5:39-40 CSB.)

Notice that the Jews knew the Scriptures. We know from other places in the Gospels that they wanted to obey the Scriptures, and they even did quite well at obeying them. And yet, Jesus told them here that they did not have eternal life. They were still dead in their sin. They didn't have life because they failed to see that the Scriptures were about Jesus, and they failed to trust in the work Christ would do, not the works they were trying to do, for salvation.

Jesus' words should be a sobering reminder to us. It's not enough for our kids to know the Bible. It's not enough for them to want to obey the Bible. It isn't even enough for them to obey the Bible. They can do all of that while still being dead in their sin.

We don't want that for our kids! We want them to know Jesus, the One whom the whole Bible is about, and trust in Him for eternal life.

This is the reason why we use The Gospel Project.

3.) Video

PLAY: ["One Story" Video](#)

4.) Luke 24:27,32,33

SAY: It was Resurrection Sunday—the Resurrection Sunday. Two disciples were traveling from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus, talking about what had happened in the city the week before. Then, Jesus approached them, His identity hidden from them, and asked them to share what had happened.

The two disciples faithfully recapped much about the ministry, arrest, and crucifixion of Jesus and even shared a report that Jesus was alive. But they stopped short of declaring that He had risen. They still had not come to believe Jesus was alive.

Jesus responded by asking why they were so foolish and slow to believe what the Scriptures had recorded about the Messiah. In other words, they knew enough—they should have believed that Jesus was alive. Then we read this:

Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures (Luke 24:27 CSB).

Notice that Jesus interpreted the Scriptures as one big story about Himself, and this is how we are to understand Scripture too. This is how The Gospel Project presents the Bible, and it is its first core value: STORY. Every week, we will show our kids how the passage that day continues this one story of Jesus, from Genesis through Revelation.

A short time later, Jesus revealed His identity to the two disciples, and then He disappeared from their midst. Right after, we read this:

They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:32 CSB).

Something had stirred deep within these two disciples. Something had stirred their affections and moved them like never before. We know what it wasn’t—the stories of Scripture themselves. Remember, Jesus rebuked them for knowing the stories of Scripture before He began to teach on the road. So what was it? It was the connecting thread of Jesus that moved them so deeply. It was the gospel story.

This is the power of the gospel. It changes us deeply within and creates a love for Christ and a desire to seek God’s glory in all we do. And this is the second core value of The Gospel Project: CULTURE. Every week, we want the story of Jesus that we teach to change our kids individually, change our small groups and kids ministry, change our families, and change our church. We want a gospel culture—one that focuses on who Jesus is and who we are in Him—to blossom here.

Notice what happened next though:

That very hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those with them gathered together (Luke 24:33 CSB).

The two disciples were not content to experience this change on their own. They had to share the news of what they had experienced—the gospel—with others. This is the third core value of The Gospel Project: MISSION. The gospel isn't just designed to change us; it is designed for us to be part of changing the world. We want our kids to join in and play the part God has designed for them in His continuing story to redeem people to Himself through Jesus. We want every kid to understand that God has an amazing purpose for his or her life: to live for His glory and make Him known to others.

So that is why we are using The Gospel Project, and that is what we want to see happen, in part, because of this resource.

5.) Session Resources

SAY: We believe, as the Bible teaches, that God has placed each of you as the primary disciplers of your children. Our role is to come alongside you and, ideally, echo you as you teach your kids the gospel in the home. In light of this, one value we take seriously is connecting with you before and after each session so you know what is being taught and can begin and continue gospel conversations with your children.

One of the first connection points you need to know about is the weekly email that we send out.

EXPLAIN: Share when you send these emails (available as part of the Parent Resources document at gospelproject.com) how they are structured and how you hope families will benefit from them. Provide a printed example if possible.

SAY: Then each week, your children will bring home two important items. First, they will have an *Activity Page*. This page is completed during the session, but besides admiring what your children have done on them, there is an extremely important reason you want this in your hands each week. There is content on them just for you—recap information of the session and family discussion starter and activity ideas. This can be a great help for you during your drive home from worship and also as you have weekly family devotions.

The second item your children will bring home is a *Big Picture Card*. These cards have the session's teaching picture on one side and again, a few key details of the story on the back, including the Christ Connection. Kids love these cards, but don't miss out on the opportunity you have to use them as well. Look at the front of the card and ask your child to tell you about the Bible story depicted. But don't stop there—ask what that story teaches us about Christ. And here's the great part—you have the answer on the back in the Christ Connection! It's also fun to have your children place several cards in the order the stories happened as another way to recap what they are learning.

EXPLAIN: Share any other ways you keep parents in the loop about what their kids are learning, such as hanging a *Big Story Circle* or displaying the current week's teaching picture near kid check-in/drop-off, newsletter articles, website pages, social media groups and posts, etc.

SUPPLIES: *Activity Pages*, *Big Picture Cards*, Parent Email Sample Print Out, other resources used

6). Family Resources

SAY: We told you we value you as the primary disciplers of your children, and we mean that. That is why we aren't stopping there. I want to share a few more really helpful tools for you to use in your homes that connect with The Gospel Project.

EXPLAIN: Share about the other resources related to The Gospel Project, as well as any other resources your church makes available to your leaders. Consider sharing about these resources:

- [The Gospel Project Family App](#): This low-cost quarterly app is available through the LifeWay Kids app and includes the Bible story videos, audio version of the key passage songs, learning activities, coloring pages, and more.
- [The Gospel Project Lite App](#): This free quarterly app is available through the LifeWay Kids app and includes activities to help children learn each unit's key passage.
- [The Big Picture Interactive Bible](#): This full-text Bible includes several Gospel Project features such as Big Picture Questions, Christ Connections, and more.
- [It's All about Jesus Bible Storybook](#): This children's storybook contains 100 stories straight from The Gospel Project.
- [The Big Book of Bible Stories for Toddlers](#): This preschool storybook contains several Old Testament and New Testament stories.
- [52-Week Bible Story Devotional](#): This devotional shares the values of The Gospel Project.
- [Adult Daily Discipleship Guide](#): This resource is for adults who are using The Gospel Project. Because the session plans align for all ages, if your adults are not using The Gospel Project in their small group ministry, they can use this on their own to go deeper into the stories their children are learning about.

SUPPLIES: Tablet with Family App and Lite App, *The Big Picture Interactive Bible*, *It's All about Jesus Storybook*, *The Big Book of Bible Stories for Toddlers*, *52-Week Bible Story Devotional*, *Adult Daily Discipleship Guide*, and other resources your church provides parents.

7.) Prayer

EXPLAIN: Consider having your leaders and/or church staff surround family members, stand near them, lay hands on them, etc. as one or more people pray for your kids and families. Consider praying for the following:

- For kids to hear the gospel, trust in Christ, and live for Him
- For family members in their role as primary disciplers

8.) Dismiss