



## Suggested Leader Launch Meeting Plan

### I. Large Group Vision

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 these two disciples deep within them. 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.

## II. SMALL GROUP TRAINING

### 5.) Session Walk-Through

**EXPLAIN:** At this point, consider dividing your leaders into four main groups based on the ages they will lead—Babies & Toddlers, Preschool, Younger Kids, and Older Kids. Arrange to have a key leader in each age group, prepped in advance, to walk his or her team through a session. Clarify what time the groups are to meet back together for the Large Group Closing time.

**SUPPLIES:** Pens, Leader Guides, Activity Pages, Big Picture Cards, Posters, Videos, Music, Session Printables, Session Activity Items

## III. LARGE GROUP CLOSING

### 6). Leader Resources

**SAY:** Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed seeing The Gospel Project in action and are more excited than ever about sharing the gospel story with our kids.

It has been said that the best teaching comes from the overflow. The best leaders are the ones who are bursting at the seams because what they are teaching has impacted them so deeply. We want each of us to be growing in our understanding of the gospel and our love for Jesus, so that that overflows into our kids. Before we wrap up, I want to share a few resources that are provided just for you.

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

- [Gospel-Centered Kids Ministry video training](#)
- [Gospel at the Center video training](#)
- [Gospel-Centered Kids Ministry book](#)
- [Session leader blog posts](#)
- [Session leader training videos](#)
- [Adult Daily Discipleship Guide](#)
- [Big Picture Questions and Answers resource](#)

## 7.) Prayer

**EXPLAIN:** Consider encouraging leaders to form groups of 2–3 to pray as you conclude, or assign individuals to pray for each suggested item below as part of a large group.

- Pray for kids to hear the gospel, trust in Christ, and live for Him
- Pray for parents in their role as primary disciplers
- Pray for a gospel culture to bloom in your ministry and church
- Pray for lost kids to hear the gospel
- Pray for one another as leaders
- Pray for your church leaders

## 8.) Dismiss