



the **GOSPEL**PROJECT.

Planning a Leaders' Training Session– Fall 2024

Objectives

- Help group leaders to understand why we're using The Gospel Project for Adults resources being introduced in Fall 2024.
- Help group leaders understand the features included in The Gospel Project for Adults resources to lead their group well.
- Help group leaders appreciate an active learning model for The Gospel Project for Adults.

Prepare

- Review the video Modeling Active Learning When Training
- Review the following from the Planning a Leaders' Training Session folder:
 - Planning a Leaders' Training Session (this document)
 - The Gospel Project for Adults Preview Guide (pdf file)
 - The video and script entitled "5 Needed Factors for Leading a Bible Study"
 - Reflection Questions provided for you and your group. Record your response and review the prompts provided.
- Review additional resources in the Launch Kit folder:
 - Videos explaining how to use the Fall 2024 The Gospel Project for Adults resources
 - Video on the value of active learning entitled Getting Everyone Involved in Learning
- Contact all potential attendees by phone and/or email, being sure to share when and where the training will take place.
 - Explain that they will receive some files to review prior to the training session and encourage them to be on the lookout for an email from you.
 - Confirm the best email to use when sending files for review.
- *Optional:* Review the suggestions for delivering Personal Study Guides to group members found on pages 33-35 of *Farsighted* (available as a free download from lifeway.com/trainingresources)

Materials Needed:

- Large poster or white board with chart below
- Accessible links to the 5 Needed Factors to Lead a Bible Study video
- A digital version of the Fall 24 The Gospel Project for Adults Preview Guide (click here)
- Four copies of the Preview Guide to be used during the training
- Printed copies of the Reflection Questions for the attendees
- Accessible links to the How To Use videos provided by Lifeway. (These will be distributed to the attendees after the training.)
- Snacks and beverages for the training

Before the Training Session

Send a link or copy of the following items to the attendees:

- Video: “5 Needed Factors for Leading a Bible Study”
- The Gospel Project for Adults Preview Guide
- Reflection Questions

In the email, direct them to review all the material and use the reflection questions to guide their review. Include the date, time, and location of the training as a reminder.

Leading the Training Session

Arrival

As the group leaders arrive, ask the following questions:

- “When have you been in a Bible study where the leader was great and what made them great?”
- “How are you feeling about possibly leading a Bible study group?”

After most have arrived, call for volunteers to share their answers.

Recap

Call for volunteers to share the five factors included in the video “5 Needed Factors for Leading a Bible Study” provided before the conference:

1. **Help your people learn how to study the Bible.**
2. **Help your people know that context is important.**
3. **Welcome all types of people and don’t assume their knowledge.**
4. **Work together to learn more.**
5. **Keep it Christ-centered.**

Invite the group to share their level of agreement of the five factors.

Create four teams (an individual can be a team). Assign each team one of the following four factors:

- **Help your people learn how to study the Bible.**
- **Help your people know that context is important.**
- **Work together to learn more.**
- **Keep it Christ-centered.**

Direct each team to use the provided Preview Guide to show how The Gospel Project for Adults resources demonstrate these four factors.

Call for teams to briefly share a summary of their findings. Use information from the preview guide and response question prompts to clarify as needed.

Make a chart on the board like the following:

Needed Factors for Leading a Bible Study	Why It's Important
Help people to learn to study the Bible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Individuals need to learn better study skills○
Importance of Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To prevent misinterpretations○
Working Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To learn corporately as a body○
Christ-centered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To keep focused on what's important○

Ask the group if they can think of other reasons that these first four factors are important. Then ask what other factors are important and why they're important. Talk through as many factors as you can and fill in the chart.

Develop Talking Points

Introduce the group to four fictitious people (write the information on four different note cards for the group):

- Berkleigh: she is a busy mom who attends your group. She is a little shy at times but once you get her involved in the group that shyness tends to go away.
- Julius: He is a new teacher anxious to do his best. He has heard that the new resources are different than in the past and wants assurance that he can succeed.
- Graham: He encouraged his group to use the Commentary instead of the Personal Study Guide because he heard there were more words for him to read. More words means more depth to him.
- Jayden: He teaches Graham's group and agrees with the use of the Commentary by the group. He is most comfortable when functioning as the master teacher.
- *Note: If you do not want to give the teachers the option of using the Commentary as an alternative to the Personal Study Guide, introduce and assign only Berkleigh and Julius, assigning two groups the same name.*

Create four teams (you can use the same teams as previous or create new teams). Assign one name to each team. Direct each team to develop talking points for a conversation with their assigned person, instructing them to focus on how to best use the appropriate resource to prepare for the group time. Present these questions to guide their thoughts: "How will you help (assigned name) use the resource to prepare to participate in or lead a group time?"

Allow the teams to work, explaining that each team will be given an opportunity to share with the rest of the group.

Call for each team to present their talking points. After each team shares, invite others not on the presenting team to ask questions or make suggestions and additions to the talking points presented. Share tips and ideas for how the resources can be used by a last-minute substitute; focusing on the Bible passage, leaning on the questions included, and the ease of leading the group activity.

Debrief

Invite group leaders to share insights they gained about The Gospel Project for Adults and the ideas behind the resources.

Point out that this training was created with the same teaching model now being used in The Gospel Project for Adults.

Quick Term Study

Instruct the group about the temptation to lean towards "an unholy co-dependency" between a leader and the group. *[Be sure to have read and reviewed the script and*

Commented [YBI]: I wonder if we would need a "Life Happens" section where we would help them understand how to use the product in case of a last minute substitute leader: what they should focus on, leaning on facilitating and getting the members to still answer questions and the ease of using the group activity in that situation.

video Getting Everyone Involved in Learning to have a better grasp on the term.] Ask the group, what do you think the term “unholy codependency” means? Invite volunteers to give answers.

Explain that it would be easy for a leader to simply lecture a lesson, being the expert, and a group simply listen as passive participants. We teach flawlessly; the group listens without engaging and tells us what a great teacher we are. What we’ve created is an unhealthy and unholy codependency. We feel good about being a good teacher; they feel good about going to a Bible study. In short, a codependency that fuels our egos while eliminating any critical thinking that might take place within the group. The new Gospel Project for Adults resources hopes to deter us from this situation.

Challenge the group leaders, then, who may be hesitant to try the active learning approach for at least the first quarter before considering a master teacher approach.

Explain that once the resources arrive, they will find information in the front of the books that will help them use the resources well. Note that these pages can be highlighted to group members when delivering the Personal Study Guides. (*Optional: For more on delivering study guides, see pages 33-35 in *Farsighted*, available at lifeway.com/trainingresources).*)

Announce that after the conference, a link to a set of videos will be provided. Explain that these videos were produced by Lifeway to help churches use the resources well. Encourage the group leaders to provide the appropriate video to the people in their group once the resources have been distributed.

Conclusion

Call attention to the passage printed on page 18 of the Preview Guide: Colossians 2:2-3 (CSB): “I want their hearts to be encouraged and joined together in love, so that they may have all the riches of complete understanding and have the knowledge of God’s mystery—Christ. In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Read the passage aloud and lead the group to use this passage as a guide for a time of prayer. Invite the group to thank God for providing His Son so that we can know and understand Him and His rich truth. Call for the leaders to commit to being stewards of God’s rich truth and for the unity found through following Jesus.

Dismiss, thanking the group leaders for attending.

Follow Up

- Send links to the “how to use” videos.
- Distribute copies of the resources as the Fall 24 quarter approaches.