

DL Kickoff Training Ideas

A packet to help you plan your first Discovery Land Training. For individualized coaching, contact us at info@dlglobal.org.

Training Principles and Suggestions

1. Volunteer training is essential in building a healthy, effective child discipleship team. The launch of DL as a new discipleship tool is an ideal time to build training into the culture of your ministry.
2. This is a training, not a meeting. Be clear about expectations and honor volunteers' time. If you want all volunteers to attend, make sure they know.
3. Consider providing snacks - food connects people!
4. Be strategic about setting the tone for this training; it will influence your team's tone as you launch.
5. Involve others! Equip your key leaders to rise up by giving them opportunities to participate in a role that is relevant to how they will be serving as you launch.

Notes

DLG training resources included in provided scenarios

- **Printable resources - available in the members' area of the website under "Training Resources"**

- Discovery Land Basics Manual - volunteer
- Preschool Training Manual
- Introduction to Discovery Land (training outline)
- Position Descriptions
- Curriculum (one lesson as a sample OR the full quarter of curriculum - depending on how you shape your training; available in the member's area of the website under "Curriculum")
- Top 12 and Books of the Bible bookmark (available in the member's area of the website under "Classroom Tools and Resources")

- **PowerPoints - available in the members' area of the website under "Training resources"**

- Introduction to Discovery Land PowerPoint

- **Videos**

- DLG Promo video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-lhvp4dzf8>
- Experience Series videos: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLooEFDJu4YILdiTDxZ4I0KcQqnlhVALKk>
- DT Demo Video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e-JHVfB1Ev8r8elu8HAmJxFtQSAg9XN/view?usp=sharing>
- Demo Lesson Video: https://drive.google.com/file/d/16xaMfcVLHqYjGY9SwnqM2TH_q33u8cTy/view?usp=sharing
- Preschool Demo Lesson Video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OimgTGkAiiQlcj8G0sxMXrsMTeONJ8Dn/view?usp=sharing>
- DL Top 12 videos: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PkFLLe1xFoKgo6igBCXpS4toYLFFuUTR?usp=sharing>

"Bookending" Your Training: How to Begin and End

Beginning options:

- Always welcome leaders, introduce yourself, explain your role, and set the vision for what will be accomplished during training.
- Play an icebreaker game* or share discussion questions.
- Worship together. Invite your children's worship team to lead! Worship training videos are available at:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Zj24GhZ1RUJQIHNZlpiQovuhtQ-t1gp8>
- Share a short testimony or story to inspire and motivate your team.
- Watch the DLG Promo Video.

Ending options:

- Huddle in small groups and pray for your students and their families.
- Create space for classroom teams to meet each other and pray for their students.
- End with a meal or snack and time for fellowship.

**Ice breaker game suggestions provided on page 4.*

Vision Casting: Communicating the "Why"

As the leader, it is essential that you build in space during this training to "cast vision" for your team. This is your opportunity to share the big picture goal and motivation for this ministry, the ways you see God working, and the "why" behind getting involved. This could look like sharing testimonies of God at work, or compelling stories about kids who need to hear His Good News, or relevant videos/media that inspire viewers to take action. We have built in time for vision casting in each training option.

Ice Breaker Suggestions

Tips for Ice Breakers:

- Keep it light hearted!
- Keep it moving!
- Keep it simple!

Ice Breaker Activities:

Human Bingo

Create Bingo cards with simple facts (is left-handed, speaks multiple languages, cuts their own hair, hates spiders, is the youngest child, is the oldest child, etc.). To check off a box, participants must find someone that matches the description (and it must be a different person for each box).

Would You Rather?

Set out three differently colored cones. Ask participants to choose one of three options - they will demonstrate their choice by standing at the corresponding cone. Example: "Would you rather eat ice cream (blue cone), french fries (green cone), or carrots (orange cone)?"

Who's Who?

Write down a fact about yourself and put in a bowl. Everyone draws a piece of paper and has to guess which fact belongs to which person.

Paper Plate Artistry

Teams at tables, hold a paper plate on top of their head and draw a scene as it is described. After drawing, show scene to rest of table.

Birthday Mix-Up

Divide participants into 2+ teams. Without speaking, each team must race to line up in order of birthday (month and day - i.e. January 5, March 2, July 15). This activity can also be repeated with height!

Classic Duos

Prepare sheets of paper that have one member of a duo on each (i.e. Mickey/Minnie, David/Jonathan, Burger/Fries, Batman/Robin, Bacon/Eggs, Bert/Ernie, etc.). Each participant will be given a piece of paper with a character/thing listed. Without looking they should tape it to their foreheads. Then, by asking only yes/no questions, they need to find their partner.

DL Training Scenarios

The following scenarios can help you design a training that fits your team's needs and time limitations. If you have any questions or want to talk about your training plan, you can reach us at: info@dlglobal.org.

To open and close each session, use the suggestions under the "Bookending" and "Vision Casting" sections. Plan for about 10- 15 minutes each for the opening and closing.

Notes

Training Scenarios: Option 1 (1.5 hours)

OPTIONAL: Extend this training to 2 hours for Lead Teachers and ask them to stay an extra 30 minutes for additional coaching.

Pre-Training:

- Volunteers should know their role (Lead Teacher, Discover Time Leader, Shepherd, or another role) and read their Position Description prior to training.
- Provide a church-specific schedule with times and locations for your Discovery Land session. Refer to the Discovery Land Basics Manual for examples of this schedule.
- Volunteers should watch the nine "Experience DLG" videos in advance.
- All classroom leaders should watch the Discover Time and Classroom demo videos in advance.

Training Outline:

Insert beginning, vision casting, and ending using material on page 3.

- Distribute the Volunteer Basics Training manual to all volunteers. They will refer to this manual as you train and will keep this resource for future reference.
- Train using the Introduction to Discovery Land training outline and PowerPoint. (30-45 minutes)
- Hand out the first lesson OR the full curriculum for the upcoming quarter to each volunteer. Talk through the Discover Time activity and the Bible Lesson outline. (15 minutes)
- Allow space for Q&A at the end of your training.

OPTIONAL: If Lead Teachers can stay for 30 extra minutes, work through the first Bible Lesson outline. Discuss how to bring the Bible to life using creative props and resources.

Post-Training

- Hand out the Top 12 and Books of the Bible Bookmark, share access to the DL Top 12 videos, and encourage all volunteers to memorize the Top 12 verses. Follow up in a few weeks. Consider making this a competition or providing an incentive for memorizing all 12 verses!
- If using the Preschool curriculum, give Preschool leaders the Preschool Training Manual.

Training Scenarios: Option 2 (2 hours)

Pre-Training

- Volunteers should know their role (Lead Teacher, Discover Time Leader, Shepherd, or another role) and read their Position Description prior to training.
- Provide a church-specific schedule with times and locations for your Discovery Land session. Refer to the Discovery Land Basics Manual for examples of this schedule.
- Volunteers should watch the nine "Experience DLG" videos in advance.

Training Outline

Insert beginning, vision casting, and ending using material on page 3.

- Distribute the Volunteer Basics Training manual to all volunteers. They will refer to this manual as you train and will keep this resource for future reference.
- Train using the Introduction to Discovery Land training outline and PowerPoint. (30-45 minutes)
- Using three skilled leaders, do a live Discover Time demonstration using the first lesson of the upcoming quarter. Use a bell to pause the demonstration to interject training comments (e.g. "Notice what the Lead Teacher is doing..." or "Did you see how the DT leader..."). (30 minutes)
- Hand out the full curriculum for the upcoming quarter to each volunteer. Break into groups by role (Lead Teacher, DT leader, Shepherd). Review the first lesson of the quarter and discuss each role's responsibilities. Refer to the Position Descriptions. (30 minutes)
- Allow space for Q&A at the end of your training.

Post-Training

- All classroom leaders should watch the Classroom demo video.
- Hand out the Top 12 and Books of the Bible Bookmark, share access to the DL Top 12 videos, and encourage all volunteers to memorize the Top 12 verses. Follow up in a few weeks. Consider making this a competition or providing an incentive for memorizing all 12 verses!
- If using the Preschool curriculum, give Preschool leaders the Preschool Training Manual.

Training Scenarios: Option 3 (3 hours)

Pre-Training

- Volunteers should know their role (Lead Teacher, Discover Time Leader, Shepherd, or another role) and read their Position Description prior to training.
- Provide a church-specific schedule with times and locations for your Discovery Land session. Refer to the Discovery Land Basics Manual for examples of this schedule.
- Have volunteers watch the nine “Experience DLG” videos in advance (will take 20 minutes).

Training Outline

Insert beginning, vision casting, and ending using material on page 3.

- Distribute the Volunteer Basics Training manual to all volunteers. They will refer to this manual as you train and will keep this resource for future reference.
- Train using the Introduction to Discovery Land training outline and PowerPoint. (30-45 minutes)
- Hand out the full curriculum for the upcoming quarter to each volunteer. Break into groups by role (Lead Teacher, DT leader, Shepherd). Review the first lesson of the quarter and discuss each role’s responsibilities. Refer to the Position Descriptions. (30 minutes)
- Re-gather as a large group. Using three skilled leaders, do a live Discover Time demonstration and a live Classroom (Bible Lesson) demonstration. Use a bell to pause the demonstrations to interject training comments (e.g. “Notice what the Lead Teacher is doing...” or “Did you see how the DT leader...”). (1 hour)
- Divide into classroom teams. Provide following prompts. (15-30 minutes)
 - Read your first Discover Time as a team. Strategize how each leader will be involved.
 - Review the Creative Ideas for the Lesson section. Discuss how you can bring the Bible to life in your classroom.
 - Read the end-of-class review game ideas in your curriculum’s appendix. Pick three games. Practice these review games as a team.
- Allow space for Q&A at the end of your training.

Training outline continued on next page.

Training Scenarios: Option 3 (3 hours) - continued

Post-Training

- Hand out the Top 12 and Books of the Bible Bookmark, share access to the DL Top 12 videos, and encourage all volunteers to memorize the Top 12 verses. Follow up in a few weeks. Consider making this a competition or providing an incentive for memorizing all 12 verses!
- If using the Preschool curriculum, give Preschool leaders the Preschool Training Manual.

Ideas for Future Trainings

For leader-specific training, you could ask leaders to stay after your initial training or set up another time.

Wordless Book Training

We recommend training all of your leaders on the Wordless Book tool. We suggest holding an additional training session specifically on the Gospel around 6 months after your initial training. Consider which of the following resources are most helpful for your team.

Videos:

- Experience DLG #3: The Wordless Book (4.5 minutes):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1wOtWO8rKE&list=PLooEFDJu4YILdiTDxZ4I0KcQqnlhVALKk&index=3>
- Sharing the Gospel - Wordless Book Overview (19 minutes):
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jRcbjaYaRkD_wRQXhPdqbYdbE7V7eull
- DLG Invitation for Salvation (3 minutes):
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jRcbjaYaRkD_wRQXhPdqbYdbE7V7eull

Discovery Land Gospel Resources:

- Believe it or Not booklet
- What's Next booklet
- Coaching Kids for Salvation
- I Believe bookmark

Training Outlines and PowerPoints:

- Toolbox II - Sharing the Gospel with Children - Advanced
- Toolbox III - Sharing the Gospel with Children - Creating Spiritual Conversations

Ideas for Future Trainings

For leader-specific training, you could ask leaders to stay after your initial training or set up another time.

Classroom Resources Training

Use the Toolbox I - DL Classroom Resources training to equip all classroom leaders (Lead Teachers, DT leaders, and Shepherds) to utilize the tools provided.

Additional Teacher Training

To help your Lead Teachers grow in their teaching skills, we recommend a follow-up training just for Lead Teachers, using the Toolbox II - Secrets to a Successful Bible Lesson training.

Additional Discover Time Leader Training

To help your Discover Time leaders take their DTs to the next level, we recommend a follow-up training just for DT leaders, using the Toolbox II - Secrets to a Successful Discover Time training.

DL Kickoff Training Planning Worksheet

Training Date _____ Time _____

Location _____

Key Players and Details

Training Team

Special Notes

(Training theme, special treats, important details to remember, etc.)

Vision Casting Planning

Why should people want to be part of this ministry?

Why does this ministry exist?

How are you seeing God at work? Your vision casting portion is a great place to share testimonies of God at work.

Training Outline

Pre-Training Homework for Volunteers:

__:__ - __:__ Beginning/Opening/Vision Casting:

Training Outline

__:__ - __:__ **Training Outline:**

Training Outline

__:__ - __:__ **Ending/Closing:**

Post-Training Homework for Volunteers:



Pre-Training To-Do List

Pre=Training

Schedule training

Lock in training team

Create training outline and decide on resources to use

Purchase supplies as needed: _____

Print/assemble supplies as needed

*(Training agenda, list of volunteers and where they are serving,
list of registered students, DL schedule, curriculum, etc.)*

Remind volunteers the week of training

Remind volunteers the day before training



Post-Training To-Do List

Post-Training

Send follow-up email with thank you and additional information

Contact volunteers who missed training; schedule a make-up training session.

Compile notes and tweaks for future training