

Discover Time Leader Training – Basic

Toolbox I

Suggested Session Length: 45 minutes (approximately 20 minutes of training and 20 minutes for a hands-on Discover Time activity demonstration)

PowerPoint Available: “Toolbox I – Discover Time Leader Training – Basic”

Audience: New Elementary and Preschool Discover Time Leaders (those who have served in the role for a year or less)

General Topic: Introductory training for new Discover Time Leaders serving in Discovery Land.

Supplies:

- Sample lesson or full curriculum packet for upcoming quarter (if both Preschool and Elementary DT Leaders are participating in this training, have both age group resources available) (one per participant)
- Demo Lesson Checklist (one per participant)
- Supplies for Discover Time Demonstration activity
 - *Note: This training includes a Sample Lesson you can use as your DT Demo, however, we suggest choosing a Discover Time activity from the upcoming quarter if possible. If you choose an upcoming DT instead of the Sample provided, you will need to update the PowerPoint slides to match.*
- Highlighters (one per participant)

Slide 1: Welcome

Welcome to basic training for Discover Time Leaders! I'm so excited you're here! Today we are going to introduce you to Discover Time activities and teach you how to lead them with excellence. We'll spend the first half of our session in this room for instruction, then we will go participate in a demonstration Discover Time activity, so you can experience what it's like to be a student on Sunday mornings.

Optional Survey, depending on the audience attending this training

If your children's ministry is not called Discovery Land, adjust the survey to include your ministry's name.

There are a few levels of experience in this room – some of you are brand new to serving in Discovery Land, while others may have served before. Let's take a quick survey.

- Hold up one finger if you are BRAND NEW and have never served in Discovery Land before.
- Hold up two fingers if you have served in DL before, but never as a Discover Time Leader.
- Hold up three fingers if you have served as a Discover Time Leader before.

Allow participants to respond and take a moment to look around and assess what level of experience your participants have.

Slide 2: What is Discover Time?

Discover Time (DT) activities are designed to engage elementary and preschool students and challenge them through hands-on learning. Through the DT activity, students will experience an emotion or response that will help them personally connect to the Bible lesson. Occasionally the DT activity will be used to make a “memorable picture” of the Bible lesson for students, often including the feel, smell, or taste of something in the Bible narrative.

When you think about Discover Time activities, it's helpful to think of them like **object lessons** that students participate in. The activity helps us bring the Bible to life for kids in some way – it may bring to life an emotion the person in our Scripture passage might've felt, or a smell or taste of something mentioned in the passage, or it may imitate a challenge encountered in the Scripture passage.

For elementary students, Discover Time typically takes place *before* the Bible Lesson and helps “set the stage”, so students are prepared to hear and understand. For preschool students, Discover Time typically takes place *after* the Bible Lesson and helps reinforce what they learned in the classroom.

Slide 3: Connecting the Dots

On Sunday mornings, when kids leave our children's ministry, most of them will be excited to tell their parents about Discover Time. That's because it's fun! Kids enjoy Discover Time activities and look forward to them each week.

As DT Leaders, our responsibility and goal is to make sure the kids can connect the dots. As they tell their parents about their Discover Time activity, will they understand how it connected to the Bible Lesson? Will they remember the “big idea” from the morning and why it matters to them?

Slide 4: DT Leader Responsibilities – Before Sunday

Hand out highlighters and a sample lesson or instruct participants to turn to the first lesson of the upcoming quarter in their curriculum packet. As you teach, participants should follow along in the curriculum and highlight headers, so they understand where to find each piece of information in the curriculum.

Prior to Sunday morning, all classroom leaders need to read the entire lesson. Of course, you will want to pay specific attention to the Discover Time activity, but you need to know everything that is being taught that morning.

Walk participants through the Sample Lesson or the lesson you're using for the DT Demo. Explain the 4 Rights and the three sections of the curriculum outline (Get Ready!, Get Set!, Go!). Allow time for participants to look through the contents, highlight headers and important sections, and become familiar with the layout of the curriculum.

In addition to reading the entire lesson, you will also need to prepare to lead the Discover Time activity. We're going to practice this in a bit.

Slide 5: DT Leader Responsibilities – On Sunday

On Sunday morning, it is important for you to arrive on-time and ready to lead. That means you should ask any questions prior to Sunday morning if possible. When you arrive, it's helpful to first take a look at your Discover Time setup and make sure you have everything you need. Then, find your classroom team – the Lead Teacher and Shepherd – and check in with them to make sure you are all set for the morning.

During the Pre-Service Review Game and Worship, you should either be checking in students or helping them participate and stay engaged.

If you are serving with elementary students, you will transition after worship to the Discover Time activity, which you are responsible to lead. The Lead Teacher and Shepherd will stay with you during this time and be available to support you during the activity. It's often helpful to ask the other leaders to serve as team captains or referees. Preschool classes will do their Discover Time activity after the Bible Lesson.

After the elementary DT, you will transition to the Bible Lesson. During this time, you should assist in the classroom by handing out Tracker Tickets, helping students navigate their Bibles, and making sure students are engaged.

At the end of the morning, both preschool and elementary students participate in review games (elementary) or review activities (preschool). You will likely be asked to lead this activity while the Lead Teacher dismisses students and greets parents. Instructions for these activities are included in the curriculum.

Take a moment to show participants where to find the Elementary End-of-Class Review Games (appendix) and the Preschool Review Activities (at the end of each lesson).

Slides 6-12: Tour of Discover Time Stations

Optional, if time allows: Instead of showing pictures of the DT stations, show participants your DT areas/materials/stations.

As we look at the different Discover Time station pictures, you will notice that these activities are all very hands-on. We use classic materials – such as chalk, water, sand, and food – to engage kids. These are materials kids have always enjoyed and will continue to enjoy! We want students to be active participants in their learning, not passive observers.

Talk through the types of Discover Time stations and activities and explain how they are set up and used at your church: Sand, Food, LEGO, Chalk, Box, Water, Play-Doh, Art, Missions, and obstacle courses. Explain that in the summer we do not use these DT stations, instead students participate in a big Discover Time activity (often obstacle courses, scavenger hunts, relay races, etc.).

Allow time for questions as needed.

Slide 13: Tips for Success

As you grow more confident in your role as a Discover Time Leader and receive additional coaching and training, you will continually find ways to strengthen your leadership skills and improve the students' DT experience. To get you started, here are four tips for success:

1. **Prepare.** Read the entire lesson early in the week, so you have time to ask questions and strategize. Think through the whole Discover Time activity and the transition to the Bible Lesson and have a plan for how you will lead well. As soon as you arrive on Sunday morning, check your DT setup to make sure it will run smoothly.
2. **Know the goal.** Each Discover Time activity has a very specific goal. Make sure you understand the purpose of the DT activity, so it is easy for the Lead Teacher to “connect the dots” to the lesson back in the classroom.

3. **Know the word.** Many Discover Time activities have a specific word or phrase that is repeated over and over throughout the activity. This is because kids learn best with repetition. Make sure you know the word/phrase and are prepared to use it confidently.
4. **Be confident.** Speak loudly and clearly so students can hear you. Understand how to use the 5-count (or whatever consistent method your ministry uses to get children's attention). *Briefly explain the 5-count or other classroom management strategy your ministry uses.*
5. **Have fun!** Discover Times are one of the most anticipated parts of Sunday morning! Enjoy building relationships with the kids in your class as you experience the DT activity together. Make sure to lean on your classroom team – your Lead Teacher and Shepherd(s) are there to support you during Discover Time. Enjoy these 15 minutes of hands-on learning and fun!

Now we're going to dig into just one Discover Time activity. We'll walk through what it's like to prep during the week, and then we'll do a demonstration of the activity. I'll be the DT Leader, and you will be the students.

Slide 14: Preparing for the Demonstration DT – 4 Rights and Goal

If using a Discover Time from the upcoming quarter instead of the sample lesson, adjust the text below to fit.

When you are first opening the lesson to read it, we recommend that you read the 4 Rights and then the review questions. This is so that you understand the big picture of the morning and what students should understand as they leave class. Let's take a look at our lesson's 4 Rights. *Have participants highlight these statements as you read the 4 Rights aloud.*

Next you would read the review questions, and then read the entire lesson. To save time today, so we can get to our demonstration, we're going to jump straight to planning the Discover Time.

Note: The following text is adapted from the paragraph under the Know Right point in the "Get Ready!" section of the curriculum. You can find a paragraph summarizing the lesson in this spot each week.

Let me give you a little bit of context to the lesson – this week, students will be learning from Luke 19 about a man named Zacchaeus. As Jesus traveled, teaching and performing miracles, He drew crowds of people everywhere He went. As Jesus came through Jericho, a short, sinful tax collector named Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see the Savior. Although the people scorned Zacchaeus, Jesus insisted on going to his house that day. Jesus' impact on Zacchaeus through his salvation is clear. He was changed from a greedy tax collector to a humble and repentant follower of the Lord. The account of Zacchaeus challenges us to be changed by Jesus.

Now that we know what the lesson will cover, let's take a look at the goal for our Discover Time. Our goal is to illustrate the concept of change. Notice how this word is bolded? That means it should be emphasized and repeated throughout the activity.

Let's read through the instructions for our activity.

Slide 15: Preparing for the Demonstration DT – Instructions and Transition

Read the Discover Time instructions aloud. Participants should highlight important information as they follow along in the curriculum.

During our demonstration DT, you will be part of a 2nd grade class. We'll be at the Play-Doh Station. Let's think about this through two lenses – first, we need to think through prep and setup, then we'll think through the DT Leader lens.

1. **Prep and set up.** *Discuss what supplies you will need to complete this DT successfully. Brainstorm ideas to make the setup exciting for students – could you incorporate flags or banners? How could you make the setup engaging and interesting?*
2. **DT Leader lens.** *Talk through how to lead this activity with excellence. Are there any potential challenges or questions students might have? What if the activity goes long or short? How could the DT Leader ask the Lead Teacher and Shepherd for support? How will the winner be chosen?*

Hand out the Demo Lesson Checklist resource and read through the “Discover Time Activity” section aloud.

Finally, before we head out to our demonstration, let's read through the “Connecting the DT to the Lesson.” This is the transition the Lead Teacher will use at the beginning of the Bible Lesson. *Have participants highlight this section as you read through the transition aloud.* Do you see how it is important for us to constantly use the word “changed” in our DT activity, so the Lead Teacher can successfully connect the dots for students back in the classroom?

Let's go do our Discover Time activity!

Demonstration DT

For the remaining 15-20 minutes, lead participants in the Discover Time activity. If time allows and if participants seem confident, allow them to take turns acting as the Discover Time Leader.

End the training with a short debrief, asking participants to share what they noticed and learned during the activity. Refer back to the Demo Lesson Checklist resource to guide the conversation. Then close in prayer.