

Leader's Prep Guide

The Leader's Prep Guide is a one-page glimpse of the stuff you need to know to begin preparing to teach the Large Group Session.

Session Overview

The Session Overview is a glance at some of the big picture details of each session.

- **Session Title:** Hitting Play
- **Session Purpose:** To help students understand that they are to be on mission for God and how hitting pause helps this.
- **Main Scripture:** Matthew 28:16-20
- **Supplemental Scriptures:** Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 14:25-27
- **Session Snapshot:** This final Large Group Outline will give your students a framework within which to understand this discussion of hitting pause. Using the Great Commission as a launching point, your students will be challenged to see the time they spend hitting pause as preparation for their life on mission with God. Small Group Session 4 does a great job of practically fleshing this out. As the other outlines have done up to this point, this outline will maintain more of a big picture view.

Session Specifics

Session Specifics are just that: important aspects of the session outline that you need to keep in mind as you prepare.

Details on Large Group Session Outlines

- Here's the overall flow of each Large Group Session. This way you'll recall what you've covered.
 - **Session 1:** Theme pitch: Why it's so important that we seek to know God more
 - **Session 2:** The importance of prayer in our lives
 - **Session 3:** Why knowing the Bible is vital to our relationship with God
 - **Session 4:** Examining God's call on our lives

A note about Small Groups

- In Small Group Session 4, students will be led to embrace their mission of being God's messengers of the reconciliation that Christ offers to all people.
 - They'll be challenged to really think about the people in their lives they come in contact with, and what it looks like to bring God's redemption and reconciliation to those people.
- The creative hook in the Small Group session is the idea that hitting pause prepares us for a life lived in play.
- In Small Group Session 4, students will be looking at 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. You can allude to this if you choose. But mostly just keep it in mind, so if you "freelance" a bit you won't steal any of the Small Group Leader's thunder.

Large Group Speaker Outline [SIMPLE]:: Session 4: Hitting Play

This SIMPLE outline is specifically designed to give you a streamlined outline for your Large Group talk. We've suggested some talking points that provide a nice roadmap for teaching the passage. But feel free to tailor them as you see fit. (If you would like a more in-depth outline complete with optional content for each point, please see the **DETAILED Large Group Speaker Outline**.)

Session Intro

In this section you'll see some **suggestions** to help you intro the session. Use as is, add to them, or come up with your own!

- **Intro Option 1: Pause Intro**
 - Consider setting the stage for what you've learned so far.
 - Use the definition for hitting pause that you've been using the last few sessions.
 - Remind students that we define hitting pause as **"Seeking God in silence and solitude through prayer and Bible study."**
 - Remind students that you've already learned the importance of each one of these aspects.
 - Explain that in this final session, you're going to look at something that's not in the definition.
 - Explain that you're going to look at one of the main purposes behind hitting pause.
- **Intro Option 2: Video: Pause Closing Video**
 - Arrange to show the Pause Closing Video.
 - The video really does a great job of summarizing what you've studied. And it sets up this lesson really nicely.
 - Show the video.
 - **Then say something like:** *It's pretty cool to think we've learned all this stuff, isn't it? But as the video alluded to, it's not enough to know it. We have to put it to use. This final session will help us know exactly how hitting pause prepares us to make a major impact on the world in Christ's name. In other words, we're going to learn how hitting pause prepares us to live life in play. Let's take a closer look to learn how hitting pause prepares us to live a life of purpose and meaning.*

Bible Study

In this section you'll find the heart of your Large Group Session content, the Bible Study. The *Bible Study* section gives three Teaching Points with supporting content. Teach it as is or tailor it to allow for your personality and experience.

Teaching Point 1: Living life in play equals joining God in His mission.

- **Have students turn to Matthew 28:16-20.**
- While they are turning, provide a little background for this passage.
 - Explain to students that Jesus had been crucified, then arisen, and then had been appearing to the disciples and others over a period of 40 days.
- The scene they're about to read is the last recorded interaction Christ had with His disciples in the Book of Matthew.
 - Explain that in these words, we can see Jesus challenge His disciples to embrace a life of action and service.
 - Remind students this is the same call we have on our lives today.
- **Read Matthew 28:16-20 aloud.**
- Point out that for the purposes of this session, you're going to look at this passage in three parts.
- The first part is in verses 18 and 19.
- Explain that here we see Jesus speaking from His position of authority, an authority that comes with Jesus' role as God.
- Explain that Jesus was commanding His disciples to devote themselves to leading others to follow Christ.
 - Explain to students that the Greek construct for this passage opens up the idea that we're called to make disciples as we go through life.
 - Explain that this is a call on all Christ-followers, and it speaks to what our focus should be as we go through our lives.
- Explain that Luke records a similar call by Jesus to a life of disciple-making in Acts 1.

- Explain that Luke was recording Jesus' last words He had with His disciples before ascending into heaven to be with God the Father.
 - As such, these words are especially useful to us, since we see Jesus leaving His followers with one final charge.
 - **Read Acts 1:8 aloud.**
 - **Then, say something like:** *It's clear from both of these accounts that Jesus had something very specific in mind. Jesus wanted His followers to be in the business of multiplication. He wanted His disciples to be people who led others to become disciples of Christ. Guess what? This is what God wants for you today as well. And this has a ton to do with what we've been talking about. Making time to seek God by hitting pause is how you lay the foundation for a life lived on mission for God. It's how you prepare yourself to obey Christ's call to make disciples of others.*

Transition Statement

We're called to make God known. We're called to lead others to a saving relationship with Christ. The question we have to ask is how we're preparing ourselves to do this.

Teaching Point 2: Hitting pause equips us to live in play.

- Explain to students that we have to face the fact that preparation is huge when it comes to our ability to effectively lead others to Christ and to grow in Christ.
- Explain that they will look at this more in-depth in their final Small Group Session. But the idea is pretty simple: We can't replicate or multiply what we don't have in the first place.
 - An intimate relationship with God, His Word, and His ways is the groundwork for living our lives on God's mission.
- **Instruct students to look back at the first part of Matthew 28:20.**
- **Read aloud verses 19-20**, stopping at "... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
- Explain to students this verse is a great challenge to us.
- Key in on that phrase: "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
 - Ask students how it's possible to teach what we don't know.
 - Ask how we can lead someone to obey the things we don't obey ourselves.
 - Ask how effective we'll be at drawing others to Christ when we ourselves are distant from Him.
- **Instruct students to turn to 2 Timothy 3:16-17.**
- While they're finding the passage, explain that we're fast-forwarding a few decades to a letter the Apostle Paul wrote to a young pastor named Timothy.
 - Explain that in this familiar passage we're going to flesh out a little more what it looks like to teach others about God's Word and His ways.
- **Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 aloud.**
- Explain to students that you could spend a lot of time going deeper into this verse and what it's calling us to. But for your purposes in this session, what this verse does is give some structure on how we can begin to look at teaching others.
 - Look where these concepts of teaching, rebuking, training, and correcting come from: **a knowledge of God's Word.**
- **Then, say something like:** *When we look at these two passages together, we begin to see this idea that we're called to do much more than simply be good people. We're called to be more than people who don't drink, or don't swear. God calls us to be His messengers of His story. He calls us to teach people about Him! He calls us to use our knowledge of His Word to shape other people. If this intimidates you, that's OK. It's a big calling. But it's not a mystery. If we've accomplished anything in our time together, it's understanding that the way to be effective in these things is very clear. We have to know God before we can lead others to Him. And this happens through hitting pause.*

Transition Statement

We said a minute ago it's OK to be a little in awe of the task we're called to. If we weren't, it would probably mean we weren't listening really well! It's a big task. However, Jesus gives us a big clue here as to how we can accomplish this task. Let's take a closer look.

CLOSING

- At this point students should pretty much know what it means to hit pause. (If they don't, they probably won't get it even if you kept talking all night.)
 - Maybe the best thing you can do for them in this time is to come up with your own personal challenge based on what the Spirit is leading you to say.
- **Encourage students.** Remind them that they do indeed have an incredible power source.
- Also, you might want to remind students that this is a long, long journey.
 - **While they can be used immediately to have an impact for the Kingdom, they'll spend the rest of their lives seeking God and growing closer to Him.**
 - Consider encouraging them that there will be successes and failures along the way. But the idea is to consciously make an effort to grow closer to God.