

Presenting . . . DWELL!

An Equipping Event for Dwell Leaders

You've counted kids, ordered curriculum, and stocked the supply cabinet. Now it's time to prepare your leaders to use Dwell. This simple outline will help you set them up for success. Choose the ideas that will work best for your setting.

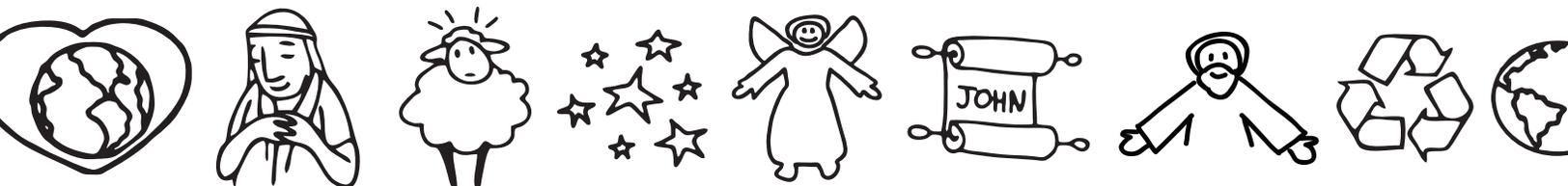


1. Get Ready . . .

- **Choose the time and set the date.** Keep in mind that more people are likely to attend if the training event is held at or near a time when your leaders would already be at the church—like before or after a worship service. Consider hosting a pancake breakfast or a lunch barbeque! Also consider using a free online tool like Meeting Wizard (www.MeetingWizard.com) to help find a date that will work best for everyone. Plan on meeting for an hour to an hour-and-a-half, depending on whether you provide a full meal or just snacks or dessert.
- **Choose a location.** Depending on the size of your leadership team you may need a large room in your church building. If you have a smaller group, you might opt for a barbeque in someone's backyard.
- **Email, send a note, or personally give each leader an invitation to the event.** Be sure to include a simple way for them to RSVP so you'll know how many people to plan for. Church announcements and bulletin blurbs are also good reminders.
- **Order materials.** If you haven't already, call Faith Alive Christian at 800-333-8300 to order leader's guides, children's materials, the story symbols for Imagine, Wonder, Marvel and Dive, as well as God's Big Story Cards sets. The person you speak with on the phone will walk you through the ordering process to make sure you have everything you need for the Sunday school season. At the event, your leaders will get acquainted with the materials they'll use for their grade level.
- **Gather additional supplies.** In preparation for the event, gather these items:
 - a class list for each grade level/group (one per leader of each group)
 - nametags, one per leader
 - pens, one per leader
 - the *Learning Style Quiz* (one per leader)
 - the *I Wonder* handout (one per table)
 - Bibles (one per table)
 - one copy of the grade-level table tents
 - a whiteboard or newsprint and markers
 - a computer and PowerPoint projector
 - the Presenting . . . Dwell! PowerPoint from the DwellCurriculum.org/downloads (optional)

Tip

If you plan a meal, consider inviting the leaders' families to stay for food before you begin talking about the curriculum. If possible, provide childcare to make it easy for each leader to attend.



- a CD player or MP3 player
- the DwellSongs CD
- food, tableware, napkins if you plan to serve a snack or meal

Optional supplies for decorating the room:

- a set of Dwell Story Symbols
- a pair of scissors
- yarn or clothesline, clothespins
- sticky tack
- a hole punch

2. Get Set . . .

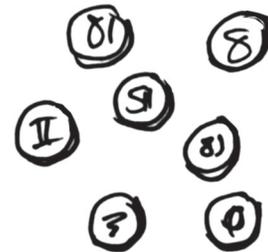
- **Make it festive.** Decorate the room to show your leaders some examples of how they might display the Story Symbols in their rooms. String yarn or clothesline across one wall and clip symbols onto the clothesline using clothespins. Run yarn or clotheslines across a second wall as well, but this time punch holes into the top and bottom of each Story Symbol and link them together in chains using paper clips. Hook the top row of paper clips to the string to secure each Story Symbol chain to the wall. On a third wall, trim the edges off of the Story Symbols and use sticky tack to secure each colorful circle to the wall in a playful pattern of Story Symbol polka dots.



Wall 1



Wall 2



Wall 3

- **Provide a place to check in.** Place the Unit 1 and 2 leader’s guides, children’s materials, and story symbol sets at the check-in table for leaders to pick up as they walk in the door. Use the grade-level table tents to indicate which materials are for each grade level. Place the nametags at the end of the table along with pens and a stack of the learning style quizzes.
- **Feature the food.** Whether you’re serving snacks or a meal, make sure tables are set or a buffet table is ready as everyone arrives. Set up the food away from the check-in table so that no part of the room becomes too crowded.

Tip

If you provide a full meal you may want to set the nametags and pens at each table, and direct your leaders to pick up their curriculum and learning style quiz *after* they’ve finished eating.



- **Test the technology.** If you plan to use the PowerPoint or video (optional), set up the projector in a place that's easy for everyone to see. Download the slides from DwellCurriculum.org/downloads and practice using the video either by downloading it to play from your computer, or by streaming it live from DwellCurriculum.org. Set up a CD player (or MP3 player/iPod if you downloaded the songs through iTunes) to play selections from the DwellSongs CD as people arrive.
- **Stock each table.** Put a box of God's Big Story Cards at the center of each table, along with the *I Wonder* handout, a pen, and the Bible. For a more festive touch add colorful tablecloths and a few simple vases of garden flowers for centerpieces.
- **Practice your part.** Review the Go! section below to practice your role in presenting Dwell to your children's ministry team.

3. Go!

Now you're ready for a great event—follow the outline below and enjoy equipping your leaders for a new season of ministry!

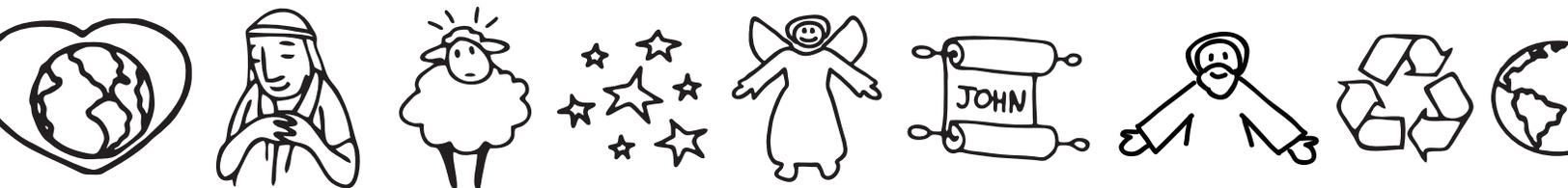
Eat and Greet (10-30 minutes, depending on whether you serve snacks or a meal)

Cue up the CD, put out the food, and greet everyone as they arrive. Direct them either to the food buffet or the check-in table, depending on whether you'll be serving a meal or a snack.

- **If you're serving a meal,** give everyone time to get their food and sit down before opening in prayer. Then, if you haven't already, work your way around to all the tables greeting everyone and thanking them for attending. Encourage them to fill out the learning style quiz as they eat, and talk together about the ways they learn best, and how that is reflected in their lives. When plates have been cleared, draw attention to the check-in table and invite everyone to pick up their Unit 1 and 2 resources. Be available to answer questions as people take their materials.
- **If you're serving a snack,** greet everyone as they arrive and send them right to the check-in table to pick up their resources. Encourage them to fill out a nametag and take one of the learning style quizzes to fill out and talk about with others around their table as they enjoy a snack and wait for everyone to arrive. Be available to help people select the materials they will need for leading the first quarter of Dwell. When everyone has settled into their seats, thank them for coming and open in prayer.

The Leader's Role (5-10 minutes)

- Tell your leaders that before you take a look at the curriculum you want to talk about their role as leaders. Share these thoughts from the heart:
- What kids need even more than great curriculum is a leader whose love for Jesus is obvious in the way they care for each person in their group and help everyone feel like they belong.



- One of the best things you can do as a leader is to listen. Instead of offering all the answers, ask for and listen to their thoughts about God and their questions—invite them to use their imaginations to explore the story and discover new things about God.
- You are a faith model for the kids or young teens in your group. That doesn't mean you're perfect, but it does mean that as kids get to know you they'll see how God works in a person's life to guide, direct, and transform. So look for ways to share stories from your own life about the way God has been with you through good times and bad, about questions or doubts you've had, and what you see God doing in the world.
- Be a learner too! Expect God to draw you near as you read the leader's devotion in preparation for your session. Expect kids to offer insights that will challenge your faith walk!

Pause here to ask which of the “smarts” everyone has. Ask for everyone who scored high for “people smart” to raise their hand—then list off a few of the other smarts and ask people to raise their hand so you can see the variety in the room. Remind them to keep the smarts in mind as they plan each session, so that they can offer a variety of activities that appeal to all kinds of learners. Mention that the Dwell website offers two learning style quizzes for kids that they may want to use with their group.

Tip
Consider visiting DwellCurriculum.org/downloads to print the children's learning style quizzes to have available for leaders who would like to use them with their group.

Kids Today (5-10 minutes)

Move to the whiteboard/newsprint and ask your group to call out some of the ways kids today spend their time. If they are slow to respond, prompt them by asking what they think the kids in their group do on weekdays, weeknights, Saturdays, Sundays.

- As people call out things like school, daycare, soccer, homework, video games, dance class, tutoring, and so on, record the answers graffiti-style on the whiteboard/newsprint. Try to keep up with everything people are calling out. The more you add the more the page/board should become a crazy jumble of words.
- When you've accumulated a dizzying list, step away from the board and face the leaders.
- Mention that, clearly, kids today are BUSY. They are always on the move—involved in more clubs, activities, and programs than any generation before them.
- Then read with expression what's written on the inside cover of the Dwell Planning Guide:

What if church wasn't more of the same, but less?

What if the children's ministry program was a place where kids could breathe . . . imagine . . . create . . . listen . . . be still . . . and know God?

Welcome to DWELL.

DWELL gives kids less noise and more time to experience God.

DWELL offers kids and leaders opportunities to worship and to wonder into God's story as they live out of it together.

Tip
If you're using a whiteboard, when you say, “Welcome to DWELL” erase a big circle of space in the center of all the words and write “DWELL” there, with some space between the word DWELL and all the word fragments left on the board. Then continue reading.



DWELL is filled with easy-to-use resources that help leaders share their faith, help kids find their place in God's story, and help families actively nurture faith at home.



How's that for a breath of fresh air?

Exploring Dwell (35-55 minutes)

Now it's time to walk your leaders through the Dwell curriculum using the Presenting . . . Dwell! PowerPoint, available at DwellCurriculum.org/downloads. The script is written in the notes section under each slide. Before your training event, print the slides with the notes so that you can practice the presentation. Feel free to adapt the slides and the presentation to suit your time frame and your team of leaders.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

If you've prepared class lists for each group, pass them out to the leaders now. Invite them to join you in prayer for all of the children who will be nurtured in faith this year. Let them know that during the prayer you'll pause to give them time to silently pray for each of the children or young teens in their group.

Use this prayer, or one from your heart:

Glorious God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank you for calling us to this ministry! Thank you for filling our church with children and young teens. Thank you for building your kingdom in every generation. Prepare us to learn and grow this season. Prepare us to share stories of your love and faithfulness from Scripture and from our own lives. Prepare us to listen well and ask good questions. Open the hearts of kids and young teens to embrace your love and to grow in faith. Lord, we silently lift up the names of the children and young teens in our group:

(Pause for silent prayer)

Please bless each of these with your presence and grace, dear Lord. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior, Teacher, and King. Amen!

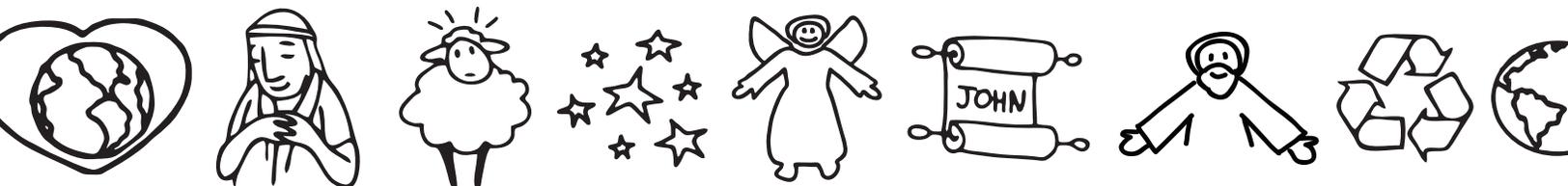
Thank everyone for attending and wish them a good evening. Don't rush to clean up too quickly—instead, be available to chat with your leaders and answer any questions they might still have.

Option

If you have less time, or would prefer to use videos, consider playing each of the videos from the Take-A-Tour page of the Dwell website (DwellCurriculum.org/take-a-tour). You'll need high speed internet access and a projector to stream them live from the website. After each video, give leaders time to look through the materials that were described and to ask questions before moving on to the next video.

Tip

Consider asking your pastor or the elder that oversees education to be present to offer the prayer.



A Learning Style Quiz for YOU!

You learn and express your intelligence in certain ways, and you'll tend to lead by choosing activities that match your learning style.

Use this quiz to see which learning styles you favor. Then be aware of your top two or three styles as you plan your sessions. Stretch yourself to choose activities beyond your natural style in order to connect with the learning styles of the kids or young teens in your group.

- A. _____ Spend time gardening, taking care of pets, hiking in the woods, camping in a wilderness area.
- B. _____ Sing, hum, whistle, play an instrument, listen to music
- C. _____ Work on logic puzzles, create charts and time lines, balance a checkbook, develop computer programs.
- D. _____ Be with other people, work on a group project or game, participate in discussions.
- E. _____ Exercise, dance, swim, play an active game, run, take part in a drama.
- F. _____ Read, do word puzzles, write letters, spend time on e-mail practice tongue twisters and limericks, tell and listen to stories.
- G. _____ Spend time alone thinking or reflecting, keep a journal or diary, work on personal growth, socially or spiritually.
- H. _____ Doodle, draw maps, paint or draw pictures, take photographs, watch movies or TV.

(Refer to the learning style descriptions on the next page to discover your "smarts")

How Do You Learn Best?

Learning Style Descriptions

Find the letter beside which you placed a 1 and read the description to discover your best personal learning style. The letters to which you assigned 2 and 3 are also ways you enjoy learning. Number 8 is the way it's most difficult for you to learn.



A. _____ You're **earth smart** and learn best through activities connected to living things and nature.



B. _____ You're **music smart**. When it comes to sound, music, and rhythm, you've got the beat!



C. _____ You're **number smart**. Problem solving, logic puzzles, games, patterns and graphs all add up to fun for you!



D. _____ You're **people smart** and learn best when you interact with others.



E. _____ You're **body smart**. When it comes to learning, you put your whole self in and enjoy hands-on experiences.



F. _____ You're **word smart** and love language. Listening, reading, and speaking are the ways you learn best.



G. _____ You're **self smart**. You like to think things through and are an independent learner.



H. _____ You're **picture smart** and learn best by visualizing concepts. A picture really is worth a thousand words to you!



Wondering questions are born out of genuine curiosity and don't have a clear answer. They take us beyond the text and help us imagine our way into the stories to connect with God and discover new truths.

Read the story of the call of Abram and Sarai from Genesis 12:1-9, or from the Unit 1 Show and Share papers for the Imagine level. Employ your imagination and curiosity. Wonder about the story: the people, places, feelings, the motives, etc.

Fill this page with your wondering.

Imagine

Wonder

Imagine

Wonder

Marvel

DIVE

Marvel

DIVE