



THE FORMATIONAL  
**HOME**  
EVENT KIT

A Step-By-Step Family  
Discipleship Journey



# Getting Started Guide

*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

3 JOHN 4, ESV

# GETTING STARTED

## The Formational Home Event Kit

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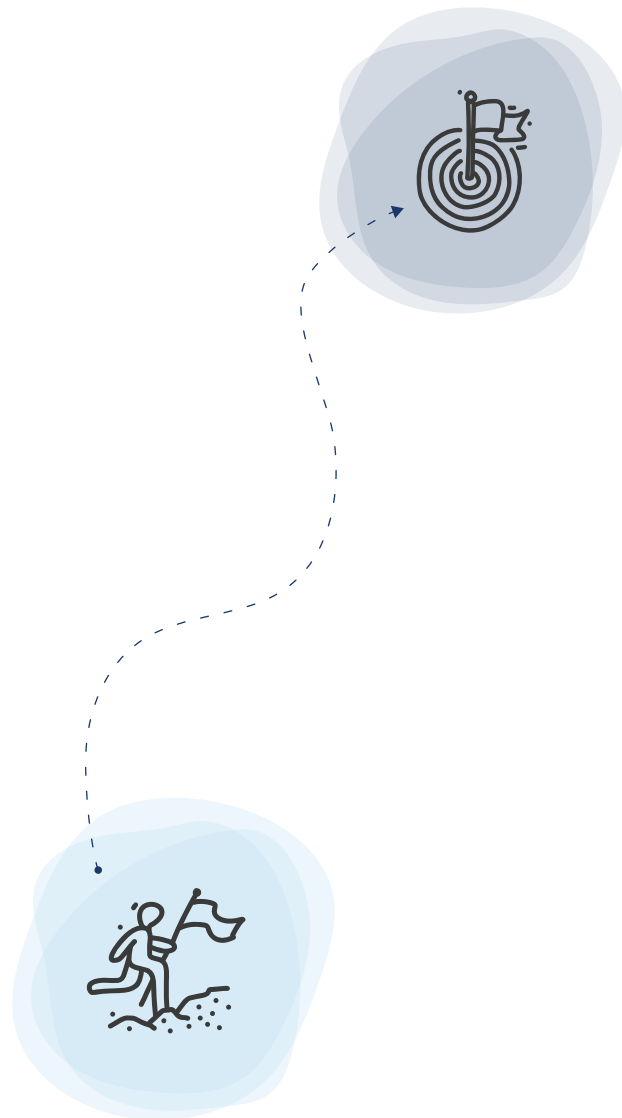
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# WELCOME



**Dear Children's Ministry Directors and Pastors,**

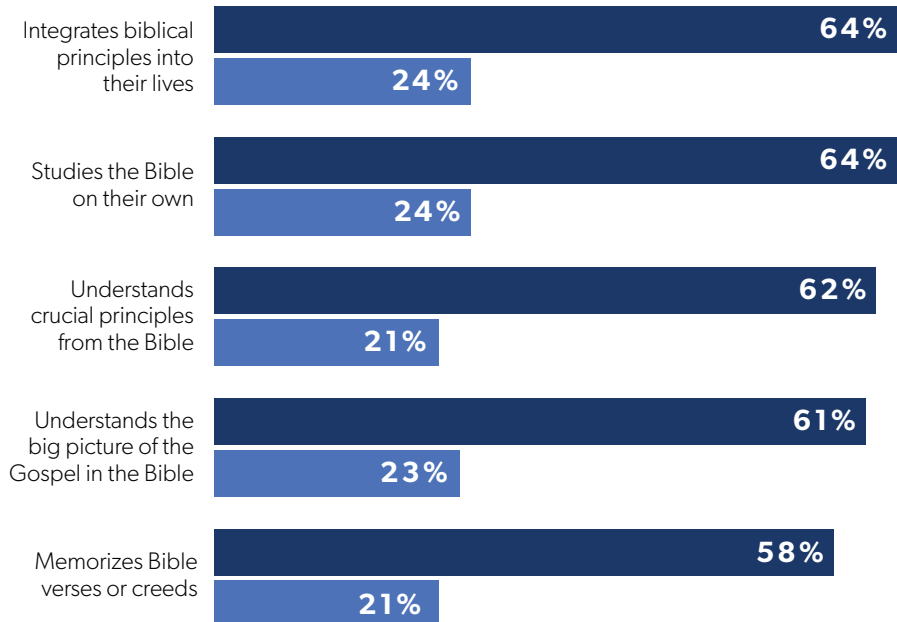
We are so grateful for your unwavering commitment to child discipleship. Week after week, you pour your hearts into nurturing and guiding children toward a loving relationship with Christ. Your dedication has eternal significance, and we are deeply thankful for you. We believe that when a child is surrounded by loving, caring adults like you, they are far more likely to follow Christ into adulthood.

## WE ASKED

### Parents of 5- to 14-year-olds: Thinking about your child and their experience at church, how true are the following about them?

"My child ... " % say "completely true"

● Child has a meaningful adult relationship ● Child does not have a meaningful adult relationship



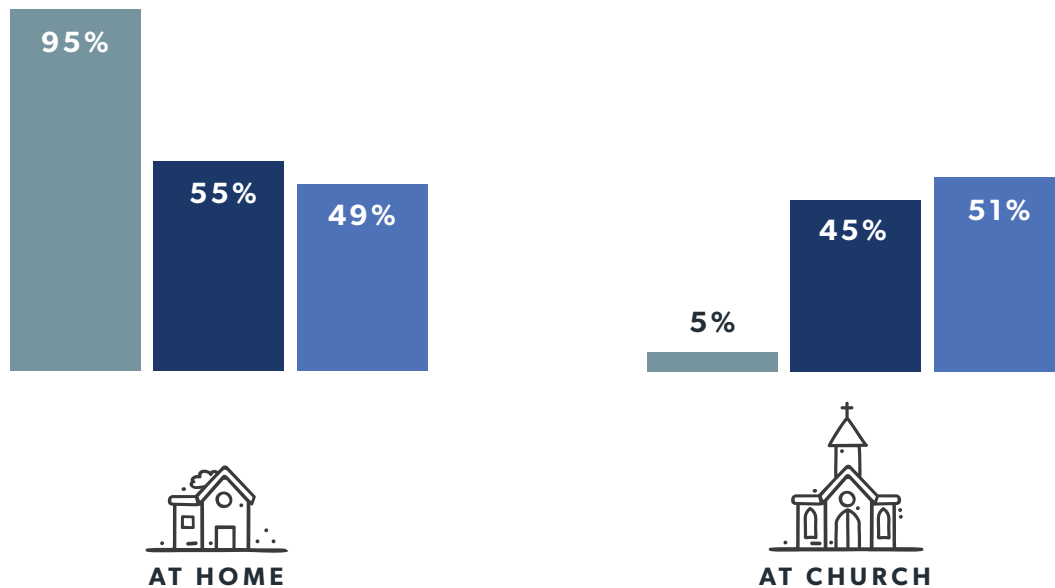
## BUT YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

Parents play an essential (and primary!) role in their child's spiritual development. Yet, many parents feel that faith formation should be left to the experts: you.

## WE ASKED

### Where should the primary source of children's discipleship take place?

● Children's ministry leaders    ● All churched adults    ● Parents of 5- to 14-year-olds



Imagine a child growing up in a vibrant faith community, where parents and children's ministry leaders join hands in a shared journey of faith formation. It's a journey that is sometimes mundane, sometimes mysterious and often miraculous.

At Awana, our mission is to empower leaders like you to inspire and equip parents with a vision for child discipleship, both in the church and at home. We hope the Formational Home Event will be a special opportunity for you to connect with parents and guide them to take active roles in their child's faith journey. Together, we can embark on this beautiful, transformative process of shaping a child's faith. We can't wait to hear about the incredible things God will do through your efforts.

Thank you for your heartfelt dedication and unwavering commitment to the spiritual formation of the children in your church community.

Discipling with you,

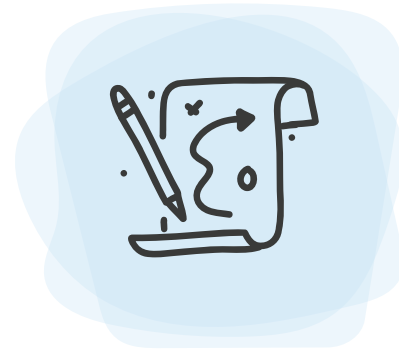
**Melanie & The Discipleship Engagement Team**

*P.S. As part of the Formational Home Event, you will encourage each parent to consider five adults who will be part of their child's spiritual support team. As you prepare for the event, prayerfully consider who in your church would make great mentors or prayer warriors. When a name comes to mind, write it down and continue praying for God's guidance to identify others who can join this supportive discipleship network.*

# BEFORE THE EVENT

## BEFORE-THE-EVENT CHECKLIST:

- Choose a date and time.
- Reserve space and arrange for the participants' kids to be disciplined, too!"
- Print and prepare handouts.
- Review the slides and facilitator guide.



Promote the event using flyers, postcards and social media.

## SCHEDULE YOUR FORMATIONAL HOME EVENT

Begin your discipleship journey by picking a date(s) to host the Formational Home Event. This is completely customizable to your church. Here is the format we recommend:

### Four 60-Minute Sessions

Whether during community groups or Sunday School, or even asking parents to stay during your kids' midweek programming, this format will help you capitalize on the time parents already spend at your church! This option includes approximately 45 minutes of content per session, but we suggest you schedule 60-minute sessions to ensure ample time for discussion and reflection.

## BUILD EXCITEMENT!

We've provided a few resources on the [Formational Home website](#) to spread the word and get families excited about your upcoming Formational Home Event. Place them in your weekly announcement slides and social media posts, or hand out postcards or flyers!

- Flyer
- Postcard
- Promotional graphics for social media
- Email graphics

## CONSIDER THE KIDS

On the day of the event, consider what will most help the whole family. Parents will likely need a place for their children; if possible, provide discipleship opportunities for their kids during the event! If you're already hosting a kids' discipleship event, consider adding the Formational Home Event to the same time! If you're looking for a trusted tool to disciple kids while they are in session, we've also provided four free weeks of our Brite™ Elementary curriculum. Included are weekly themes, activities and Bible stories to bring Scripture to life for the kids who attend!

## PREPARE TO PRESENT

Everything you need to host the Formational Home Event is provided for you! Start by reviewing the slides and the facilitator guide; these will guide you as you teach. Familiarizing yourself with the content will help you present it in a more engaging manner.

When you're preparing the parent handouts, print them in color and present a complete set — in a folder — to every attendee. For subsequent weeks, print extra sets for parents who may have forgotten to bring their set with them. Also consider taking a set for your own review! This will ensure you're able to answer any questions parents have during the event.



## RESOURCE WELL

Parents are always looking for recommended resources. Whether your church can give these resources away or provide them at cost, here are a few suggestions that will complement the content nicely:

- [\*\*\*Creating a Culture of Discipleship in the Home\*\*\*](#), Michael Handler (This is a super affordable, must-have for every parent attending your event!)
- *Habits of the Household*, Justin Whitmel Earley
- *The Tech-Wise Family*, Andy Crouch
- *Raising Passionate Jesus Followers*, Phil and Diane Comer

Free Resources:

- Share this [\*\*family discipleship talk\*\*](#) from the 2023 Child Discipleship Forum™, presented by Santosh Swamidass.
- Listen to [\*\*this podcast series\*\*](#) from The Gospel Coalition.
- Encourage parents to sign up for the [\*\*Friday Family Email\*\*](#).

# DAY OF THE EVENT

We are excited to see how God will work through your Formational Home Event to inspire and equip parents in their vital role as child disciplemakers. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to this important ministry.

## DAY-OF-THE-EVENT CHECKLIST:

- Set up the meeting space.
- Ensure all materials and resources are ready.
- Welcome participants and start on time.
- Engage with participants and encourage discussion.



## DETAILED AGENDA

**Session 1: Vision** — Discipleship Drives Direction

**Session 2: Time and Place** — Discipleship Is Deliberate

**Session 3: Language** — Discipleship Is Dialogue

**Session 4: Community** — Discipleship Takes a Team

BONUS! Schedule a fifth session for families to reflect, pray and discuss ways they plan on applying what they learned.

Each session will include time to discuss each family's discipleship efforts since the previous session, a 20- to 30-minute presentation and 20 to 30 minutes of reflection, discussion and prayer.

# AFTER THE EVENT

## AFTER-THE-EVENT CHECKLIST:

- Collect feedback from participants.
- Follow up with parents and provide additional resources.
- Share your experiences with the wider community.

## CONNECT

**Have questions? Need suggestions?**

- Email us at [childdiscipleship@awana.org](mailto:childdiscipleship@awana.org)

**Had a great event and want to share?** Tag us on social media!

 [@childdiscipleship](https://www.instagram.com/childdiscipleship)

 [@ChildDiscipleship.com](https://www.facebook.com/ChildDiscipleship.com)

*We can't wait to hear how God uses you to bless and encourage the families in your church.*

# FAQ

## **Q: HOW DO I CUSTOMIZE THE EVENT FOR MY CHURCH?**

A: The format of the event is flexible. Choose what works best for your community and adapt the materials as needed.

## **Q: WHAT IF PARENTS CANNOT ATTEND EVERY SESSION?**

A: Encourage parents to attend as many sessions as possible. Provide handouts and resources for any sessions they miss.

## **Q: HOW DO I HANDLE CHILD DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE EVENT?**

A: If possible, arrange for separate child discipleship opportunities during the event. Communicate with parents about the availability in advance. Remember, if you're looking for kid-focused, Bible-based activities, [here are four free Brite lessons!](#)

## **Q: WHAT IF PARENTS HAVE MORE QUESTIONS AFTER THE EVENT?**

A: Provide contact information for follow-up questions and consider hosting additional discipleship sessions or small group discussions.

## **Q: IS THIS EVENT JUST FOR PARENTS? WHAT ABOUT GRANDPARENTS AND CAREGIVERS?**

A: This event is for any primary caregiver who is interested in the faith formation of a child at home. This may look different for each family and child. Parents, foster parents, adopted parents, caregivers, grandparents, aunts and uncles are welcome to attend.

