



“Discipling the Next Generation”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

The Problem

Large numbers of kids who grow up in church are wandering away from the Christian faith.

- 70% of youth stop attending church when they graduate from high school. (*Lifeway Research*)
- Only 10% of Gen-Z kids who grew up in church were still thriving in their faith between the ages of 18-29. (*Barna Group*)
- Overall, about 2/3 of our youth drop out of church for at least a year after high school, and 30% of them never return.

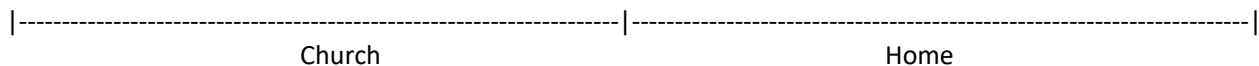
The Opportunity

We need to disciple people while they’re young.

- 83% of Christians make their first commitment to Jesus between the ages of 4 and 14. (*International Bible Society*)
- Children develop their moral foundations by age 9. Their fundamental beliefs are in place by age 13. (*Barna Group*)

God’s Two Agents of Formation:

Where on this spectrum would you place the main responsibility for discipling children?



Parents are primarily responsible for discipling their children. The Church is primarily responsible for equipping parents. But there has to be a balance.

1. The Church

Children’s Ministry Purpose Statement:

“Discipling Kids. Equipping Parents. Training Leaders.”

Children’s Discipleship Pathway:

- **BELONG:** We want to be a church family where every child is seen, known and loved by multiple caring adults.

Kids need more than just information. The single most important factor in children forming lasting faith is community. Yet only 2 out of 5 kids in children’s ministry have a meaningful relationship with an adult. (*Barna Group*)

- **BELIEVE:** We want to help our kids believe in the gospel and the truth of God’s word.
- **BECOME:** We want to help children become genuine disciples of Jesus who are growing and maturing in their faith – able to withstand the pressures and temptations that are all around them.

2. The Home

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 – called the *Shema* (Hebrew word for “hear.”) One of the most famous passages in the Bible. Recited by Jews every morning and evening.

Verse 4 – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

- This is the basis for education in our homes – the reality that there is one true God who has revealed himself to us and speaks with absolute authority. He is worthy of our praise, loyalty and obedience.

Our Hearts:

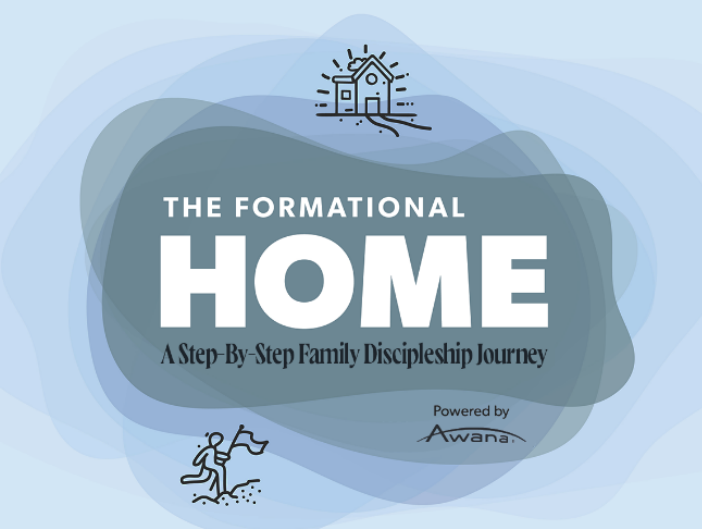
Verses 5-6 – “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.”

Our Homes:

Verse 7 – “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

Our Habits:

Verses 8-9 – “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”



**THE FORMATIONAL
HOME**
A Step-By-Step Family Discipleship Journey
Powered by
Awana

Your Child's Future Begins at Home.

Dates: Sundays, August 16, 23, 30, and September 6

Time: 6:00–7:30pm

Location: Maple – A201



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