Raising children and youth to know love, and serve Christ can be challenging without the right tools

We are committed to equipping your volunteers to evangelize and disciple the young people they influence.

With over 40 different seminars, workshops, and keynotes to choose from, we have one that is right for your training event. We are also prepared to offer customized training to meet the needs of your church.

Please contact us for more information:

Tim & Sherry Thomas ◆ timt@awana.org ◆ 920-699-1977

We can also consult with you on any of these topics.

Course Catalog

LEADERSHIP

Sermons

The Call

Exploring the call to service and the response of several biblical characters and a challenge to answer God's call on our lives.

Failure is Not an Option

A look at the life of Mark - his struggles on the mission field, his mentoring by Peter, and his return to service.

What Are You Doing Here?

Keeping a proper perspective when things don't work out like we thought they would.

Keynote Message

The Two Vital Ships of Ministry

Regardless of your area of ministry; without these two crucial ingredients you're headed for trouble.

Seminars

LEAD: Equip (2 days)

LEAD is a leadership development experience teaching essential ministry skills for Children and Youth Pastors, Children's Directors, and anyone who wants to become a better leader in ministry!

What you'll learn – Key Leadership Skills! This event is all about Children and Youth Ministry leader development. LEAD is a blended learning experience, which includes social learning, video, reflection, challenges and a 2-day conference.

How to Lead and Still Have a Life (5-6 hours)

The 8 Principles of Less is More Leadership

If you are tired of always feeling busy, buried, and behind - this seminar is for you. Learn how to serve effectively and efficiently in the ministry to which God has called you without having your personal and family life becoming a nightmare. It's not about doing MORE, but actually doing LESS! Whether mentoring a friend, leading a team or guiding the organization, these principles really work! Based on the teaching of Dale Burke.

The Best of – Leadership Seminars (3-4 hours)

Blending of several spiritual and secular leadership books and seminars. Including: *How to Lead and Still Have a Life, Lead Like Jesus, Good to Great,* and more.

Workshops

(Unless otherwise noted each workshop is 45-60 minutes)

Building a Leadership Team that Leads!

Tired of doing it all yourself? Learn ways to transform your team members into team leaders

Reproducing Leadership

Paul told Timothy to share what he had learned with faithful leaders who could teach even more leaders. Learn the five steps to leading leaders.

Discover Your Color (2 Hours)

How well a team works together has a direct effect on the success of your ministry. Build team unity, reduce conflict and strengthen relationships with this personality-style training.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY CONCEPTS

Sermon

Stooping to Greatness

A look at the priority Christ puts on ministering to children.

Raising a Modern Day Joseph

Helping parents develop a plan for becoming the spiritual leaders in their home and raising children that are like Joseph.

Keynote Message

The Two Vital Ships of Ministry

Regardless of your area of ministry; without these two crucial ingredients you're headed for trouble.

Seminars

The Legacy Mission *NEW (3½ hours)

Intentionally Influencing Your Grandchildren to Follow Christ

Grandparents have incredible power: they are second only to parents in their ability to influence children. The greatest joy and the greatest passion of a grandparent is a grandchild, yet that passion is unleveraged by the church, and under-resourced by the vast majority of family ministries in America.

It is time to change. Time to harness the wisdom, the resources, the energy, the savvy, and the passion of millions of grandparents – to redouble their efforts to be intentional influencers of our youngest generation. Time to envision churches for grandparenting ministry, and to equip the grandparents themselves to better address their desire to see the generations that follow them live for Christ.

The Four Pillars of Children's Ministry (6-8 hours)

Because Their Future is Now

This Conference is for parents, pastors, ministry and Awana leaders, teachers and youth workers who have a desire to point kids to Christ and plant them in His Word. It is designed to equip you to impact not only this generation, but generations to come. The conference will prepare you to develop and implement the four key pillars of an effective children's ministry.

Shepherding Parents (4-6 hours)

Build bridges to the families of the kids in your ministry.

Many parents feel inadequate when it comes to raising children. Parents have searching and sometimes urgent questions. They want answers that will provide them with insight, guidance and support. Our Shepherding Parents seminar will continue the focus on: raising the priority of ministry to children and youth; deepening their biblical worldview starting with parents and church leaders; and broadening the shepherding of parents and leaders who train them.

Rock-Solid Kids (4-6 hours)

Build a strong children's ministry modeled on scriptural teaching. Learn the importance, responsibility, content and opportunity of children's ministry. Offers practical insights to give kids a solid biblical foundation at home, school, and church

Sharing Christ with Kids (4 hours)

Based on the parable of the Sower, learn to boldly and biblically share the gospel with kids (and adults too!) and teach others to do the same. Become an equipped farmer that properly prepares the soil to receive the seed of the Gospel and reaps a bountiful harvest.

Keep Them Coming All Year Long

Ideas and concepts to help reduce the number of dropouts.

Ministering to Tweens

Consider aspects of culture and development of preteens, and think about how these characteristics may affect student attitudes towards the things of the Lord. Learn fresh ways to connect with and minster to preteens.

Workshops

(Unless otherwise noted each workshop is 45-60 minutes)

Get out of the Zone – the Comfort Zone

Building meaningful relationships with clubbers and their families.

Is Your Ministry BASED?

Biblical – Application – Specific - Equipping – Discipleship

Does your ministry include all five of these foundational principals?

Children and Spiritual Gifts

Every believer has a spiritual gift, even the young ones. Learn ways to help kids discover their spiritual gifts and put them to use.

Adding 'POP' to your ministry

A random collection of inexpensive and easy to use cool tools, exciting visuals, and fun ideas to add more pizzazz to your children's ministry.

PRESENTING THE GOSPEL WITH CLARITY AND URGENCY

Sermon

The Greatest FEAT of All Time

The essentials of salvation: a look at the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Seminars

Sharing Christ with Kids (4 hours)

Based on the parable of the Sower, learn to boldly and biblically share the gospel with kids (and adults too!) and teach others to do the same. Become an equipped farmer that

properly prepares the soil to receive the seed of the Gospel and reaps a bountiful harvest.

Sharing Christ with Confidence (2.5 Hours)

Gain confidence in sharing your faith by the using a variety of tools, defining "Christianese", and learning to tell your own story of faith.

Workshops

(Unless otherwise noted each workshop is 45-60 minutes)

5 Reasons You Should Not Ask Jesus Into Your Heart

A look at clear and confusing invitations.

Children live in a literal world and often when explaining the Gospel we add "Christian-ese" and terms, which require sophisticated abstract comprehension skills, when explaining the Gospel. Learn some do's and don'ts of explaining the Gospel and *leading* a child to Christ.

C2C

Equipping your students to share Jesus with their family and friends

Gospel Tools

It is easy to get sidetracked when sharing your faith, especially if you are anxious. Learn how to use a variety of tools to keep you focused and confident.

RECRUITING AND RETAINING VOLUNTEERS

Workshops

(Unless otherwise noted each workshop is 45-60 minutes)

Stop Asking for Help

When we ask for help, that's exactly what we get, 'helpers'. Do we want helpers or do we desire motivated, dedicated, and equipped ministry co-laborers

Seven Steps to Keeping Volunteers

Follow Nehemiah's example to keep your volunteers motivated when times get tough.

Get in the Zone – Finding Your Sweet Spot of Ministry

A sweet spot is a place where a combination of factors come together to produce an amazing result.

Achieving Gender Balance in Children's Ministry

Looking for a few good men? In children's ministry, who isn't? Learn six ways to get and to encourage and keep men involved in children's ministry

Discover Your Color (2 Hours)

How well a team works together has a direct effect on the success of your ministry. Build team unity, reduce conflict and strengthen relationships with this personality-style training.

TEACHING AND PRESENTATION SKILLS

Seminars

Teach Like Jesus (4-6 hours)

Discover the Joy of Teaching Like Jesus

New teaching methods are developed all the time. But often cutting-edge presentation lacks substance. Learn practical guidance from the greatest teacher Himself, Jesus

Christ. With creative ideas for any teaching situation, pattern your training style to create long-lasting, lifelong change in those you teach. You'll learn to mirror Jesus' teaching principles and become a rock-solid teacher.

Workshops

(Unless otherwise noted each workshop is 45-60 minutes)

So You Want To Be a Workshop Leader

Increase your confidence and competence as a workshop presenter

Teaching God's Word to Children

Children have an amazing ability to absorb information, but they do so differently than adults. Learn to present biblical concepts in a way that they stick.

Teaching with Object Lessons

Learn the effectiveness of using object lessons and methods to help kids understand and apply God's Word in their lives.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Sermons

The Call

Exploring the call to service and response of several biblical characters and a challenge to answer God's call on our lives.

Stooping to Greatness

A look at the priority Christ puts on ministering to children.

Where Do I Fit In?

Like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, God has made each of us unique, designed to fit together to make a beautiful picture called 'The Church'. Without each of us doing what God has called us to do pieces are missing and the picture is incomplete.

Seminar

Network (6-7 Hours)

The Right People, in the Right Place, for the Right Reasons, at the Right Time. The Network process helps Christians understand who God has uniquely made them to be and guide them to a meaningful place of service. Discover your God-given spiritual gifts, personal style, and ministry passion for serving in and through the body of Christ. As a result, you will have servants who are equipped to fulfill God's purposes ... having a greater ministry enthusiasm and impact ... serving with more affirmation, love and commitment ... competently using their spiritual gifts in the areas of their ministry passion ... avoiding ministry stress, boredom and burnout ... expanding ministries and extending the church's reach into the community. From Network Ministries International.

Workshops

(Unless otherwise noted each workshop is 45-60 minutes)

Get in the Zone – Finding Your Sweet Spot of Ministry

A sweet spot is a place where a combination of factors comes together to produce an amazing result.

Children and Spiritual Gifts

Every believer has a spiritual gift, even the young ones. Learn ways to help kids discover their spiritual gifts and put them to use.

MISCELLANEOUS

Workshops

(Unless otherwise noted each workshop is 45-60 minutes)

Signs of the Times

Learn some basic sign language to use with your hearing impaired children or to enhance ministry and worship opportunities with your hearing kids. You will learn some basic signs and ways to use signs to help teach Bible verses and make songs more interesting.

AWANA

Keynote/Presentation

An Introduction to Awana

Awana is more than just the weekly clubs. It is an integrated evangelistic and discipleship ministry for your whole church.

Workshops

(Unless otherwise noted each workshop is 45-60 minutes)

Especially for...: (1-2 hours each)

Cubbies - 3&4 year old club

Sparks – Kindergarten through 2nd grade club

Truth & Training – 3rd through 5th (or 6th) grade club

Trek – Middle School club

Journey - High School club

Commander/Director Training (2-3 hours)

An introduction to the qualifications and job description of these two vital Awana positions 10 Standards of Excellence

These are the ten standards of a successful Awana club. The characteristics associated with each standard illustrate a well-run and effective club and can serve as the pattern for a church's orientation and evaluation. These standards are based on Awana training materials.

Motivating with Points

Teams, Shares, Points, Treats, Prizes – How to do I bring this all together to encourage our clubbers? We will show ways of using these elements to effectively motivate your clubbers regardless of your situation, format, or structure.

When Wild Kids Show up

Learn tips for maintaining good discipline even with those very challenging kids in your

Bible Memory Tips, Tools, and Techniques

Memorizing Scripture isn't easy, but it is possible using some of these tips, tools, and techniques.

Keep 'em Coming Back!

Suggestions to keep your children from dropping out along the way. Ideas on how to get through those times of the year when attendance usually declines.

Theme Nights - A sure-fire hit with kids of all ages

Awana is for kids. And kids love to have fun. (Admit it: you do, too.) So, what better way to liven up a club meeting than hosting a fun theme night? As you plan your Awana year, here are some theme-night suggestions to consider for future meetings.

Awana Calendar Planning

Most Awana clubs operate from September through May, but the planning and evaluation process runs year round. Learn what you should be doing and when you should be doing it

Make it Great for Special Kids - A Ministry for Everyone

Ideas and resources for integrating special-needs kids into the ministries of your church.

The Awana Store

Kids love Awana dollars! We'll share ideas on setting up and running an Awana store.

Awana – Out of the Box

Large Group, Small Group, Game Time – This model works quite well for churches with 50-400 clubbers, sufficient number of leaders, and adequate facilities. But what if your church doesn't fit this model, what then? We will discuss options designed to help you take Awana out of the box and start thinking in new and creative ways.

Advanced Small Group Strategies

Do you find it challenging to build relationships and help clubbers pass sections during small group? Consider several different small group options to help clubbers continue to progress through their handbooks.

Seminars

Awana Getting Started Training (3-4 hours)

Create passion and build confidence as you serve in Awana clubs with this practical training seminar. Includes: Presenting the Gospel clearly; Clear and confusing invitations; Importance of children's ministry; Ministry overview, Introduction to clubs and roles; Outreach; and Child protection.

Awana Getting Started Refresher (3-4 hours)

Includes Gospel and Children's Ministry portions from Awana Basic Training Orientation and 10 Standards of Excellence.

Hitting the Mark (2 days)

Hitting the Mark is a two-day training experience designed for pastors, children's ministry leaders and teams who desire to launch a strong Awana club.

Hitting the Mark will:

- 1. Create passionate, committed advocates for your ministry
- 2. Prepare you to run an effective ministry
- 3. Equip you to teach Getting Started to your leaders

HTM II (2 days)

Hitting the Mark II is a two-day training experience designed for pastors, children's ministry leaders and teams who desire to run a strong Awana club. Brings the best of HTM, contextualized for current Awana churches.

Hitting the Mark will:

- 1. Create passionate, committed advocates for your ministry
- 2. Prepare you to run an effective ministry
- 3. Equip you to teach Getting Started to your leaders