

Awana**basics** *Live!*

TRAINER GUIDE

Single Trainer Method

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The Awana Basics Live (ABL) Trainer Guide contains teaching notes for a two-hour, in-person Awana training that can be presented in three parts:

- **Part One** is meant to be taught classroom-style. While participants sit in small groups at tables, trainers will teach the basics of Awana Clubs through lecture, live demonstration and group participation.
- **Part Two** focuses on small group demonstrations. Through the use of **Discovery Tables**, participants will observe and learn how each element of Awana works to support kids in their specific club.
- **Part Three** concludes the training with a powerful wrap-up that highlights the impact of loving, caring adults in the lives of children and youth.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO SHOULD TEACH ABL?

Awana Basics Live is designed to teach lay volunteers their vital role as child disciple-makers, through the basics of Awana Clubs and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ effectively. This two-hour presentation works in tandem with training resources that are available all year at **Awana Basics Online (ABO)**.

Because ABL and ABO work in cooperation to train Awana leaders, presenters with a variety of experience can effectively teach the material. Churches may also choose to invite their Awana missionary* or a trained ministry team member to present Awana Basics Live.

**To connect with your local Awana missionary, visit missionary.awana.org.*

DO EXPERIENCED LEADERS NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN ABL?

Yes. The value of having experienced leaders participate in an ABL training is three-fold:

- It provides them with updates to resources and new content that will inspire and encourage them in their role.
- When new leaders train beside veteran leaders, both are sharpened for effective ministry.
- Experienced leaders can offer valuable insight during the club breakout.

SUPPLIES

Single Trainer Method

PART ONE AND THREE

- ☐ Audiovisual equipment for slide deck/videos
- ☐ Slide presentation*
- ☐ Awana Basics Live Trainer Guide*
- ☐ Participant handout*

* Downloadable from awanabasics.awana.org

PART TWO: Small Group Demonstration and Discovery Tables

- ☐ Round table
- ☐ 5-6 chairs
- ☐ 4-5 T&T Evidence of Grace Handbooks*
- ☐ T&T Evidence of Grace Small Group Leader Guide
- ☐ 5 Bibles
- ☐ Index cards

* A PDF of Evidence of Grace Section 1.2 is available to download in the ABL Resource Folder.

DISCOVERY TABLES

All Discovery Table Guides are available for download in the ABL Resources folder. Only set up tables for the age groups your church serves.

PUGGLES	CUBBIES	SPARKS
☐ Round table and chairs ☐ Discovery Table Guide ☐ Entrance Booklet ☐ Teaching Plans ☐ Teaching Cards ☐ Parent Card ☐ Coloring and Activity Book	☐ Round table and chairs ☐ Discovery Table Guide ☐ Apple Acres Entrance Booklet ☐ AppleSeed or HoneyComb Handbook ☐ Matching Teaching Plan ☐ Teaching Cards	☐ Round table and chairs ☐ Discovery Table Guide ☐ Flight 3:16 ☐ HangGlider Handbook ☐ Leader Handbook ☐ Large Group Resource
TRUTH & TRAINING	TREK & JOURNEY	GAME DIRECTOR
☐ Round table and chairs ☐ Discovery Table Guide ☐ Start Zone Entrance Booklet ☐ Any T&T Handbook ☐ Matching Large Group Guide ☐ Matching Small Group Guide	☐ Round table and chairs ☐ Discovery Table Guides ☐ Trek Check ☐ Faith Foundation ☐ Any Trek Bible Study ☐ Any Journey Bible Study ☐ Matching Leader Guides ☐ Matching Discussion Guides	☐ Round table and chairs ☐ Discovery Table Guide ☐ Sparks Game Book ☐ T&T Game Book ☐ Time to Play Preschool Game Book

PREPARATION

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PART ONE AND THREE

- ☐ Review the Awana Intro Module at the beginning of any ABO track.
- ☐ Hide or delete slides and videos you don't intend to use.
- ☐ Print enough handout copies for each participant.
- ☐ Set up and test audiovisual equipment.

PART TWO

Small Group Demonstration

- ☐ Prepare the Make It Stick Activity (found in the Small Group Leader Guide) by writing each word from Jeremiah 10:12 on individual index cards.
- ☐ Set up a table with chairs (or arrange chairs in a circle), making sure there is enough space for training participants to gather around and watch the demonstration.

Discovery Tables

- ☐ Print Discovery Table Guides for each Club and fold to display on each table.
- ☐ Print Discovery Table Guide as a handout for each participant.
- ☐ Set up a table with chairs for each age-specific Awana club your church serves.
- ☐ Arrange Awana resources on each age-specific table for participants to view.

AT A GLANCE

Single Trainer Method

PART ONE (45 MIN) - OPENING SESSION

Welcome and Objectives	10 Minutes	Agenda and Goals
Overview of Awana	10 Minutes	Vision, Mission and Reach
The Gospel	15 Minutes	God's Big Story
Club Overview	10 Minutes	Ages and Segments

BREAK 10 MINUTES

PART TWO (50 MIN) - CLUB DEMONSTRATION

Small Group Demonstration	25 Minutes	Role-Playing and Discussion
Discovery Tables	25 Minutes	Self-Paced Learning

PART THREE (15 MIN) - CLOSING SESSION

The Power of a Loving, Caring Adult	15 Minutes	Video or Testimony Options
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SCRIPT

Single Trainer Method

PART ONE (45 MIN) - OPENING SESSION

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
SLIDES: PowerPoint Loop	▶ Play prepared PowerPoint loop with music as people are coming in and finding seats.

WELCOME & OBJECTIVES (10 MINUTES)

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
SLIDE: Welcome	WELCOME AND PRAYER ✔ Welcome participants, introduce yourself and pray over the training. 🔄 Transition to optional Belonging Activity OR skip and present the goals for today's training.
SLIDE: Ice Breaker	ICE BREAKER - BELONGING ACTIVITY (Optional) Belonging Activity ideas can be found in the ABL Resources Folder or you can use your own icebreaker idea to encourage group participation. <i>NOTE: Choosing to use this segment may require extending the time allotted for the Opening Session.</i> 🔄 Transition to "Objectives"
SLIDE: Objectives	OBJECTIVES There are three objectives for today's training. When you leave, we hope you will be able to: • Explain the Gospel clearly and with confidence. • Articulate why child discipleship and your role as a loving, caring adult in a child's life is essential AND • Gain confidence about the basics of your role as an Awana leader.
SLIDE: Awana Basics Online	AWANA BASICS ONLINE (ABO) During our time together, and in many places in your handouts, you will be encouraged to visit Awana Basics Online for more information. While it is difficult to cover everything in a two-hour training, ABO is an incredible resource that's available day or night and filled with amazing ideas to help you and your Awana ministry. 🔄 Transition to video slide.

OVERVIEW OF AWANA (10 MINUTES)

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
VIDEO: Overview of Awana	Let's begin today with a quick video that provides a brief overview of Awana Clubs. ▶
SLIDE: History	HISTORY & REACH OF AWANA Awana was founded in 1950 as a parachurch organization. Today, it spans 135 countries and reaches over 6 million kids every week. From bustling cities to remote locations, Awana continues to expand its reach into churches, refugee camps and slums, bringing the light of the Gospel to every corner of the world. Awana is not built on time-bound methods or limited to a specific cultural context but is based on timeless principles that equip churches to disciple kids in varying contexts around the globe. Awana is more than a program; it's a catalyst for resilient discipleship. By launching an Awana ministry, you are joining a movement, helping kids belong, believe and become like Jesus in your community and beyond.
SLIDE: Impact: Learn More	To learn more about Awana's reach and impact visit www.awana.org/impact and review Module 1, Session 1 within Awana Basics Online. 🔄 Transition to "Vision, Mission and Ministry Philosophy of Awana."
SLIDE: Vision of Awana	VISION, MISSION AND MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY OF AWANA Awana's vision and mission determine everything Awana does. The Vision of Awana is that all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's say the Vision of Awana together with motions. The Vision of Awana is that all children and youth throughout the world → Spread arms in a wide circle. will come to know, → Touch head. love → Cross hands over chest. and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. → Open hands wide with palms facing up. Thank you! You all did a great job!
SLIDE: Mission of Awana	This vision is what drives Awana's mission. The mission of Awana is to equip leaders to reach kids with the Gospel and engage them in lifelong discipleship.
SLIDE: Lasting Faith	Starting in 2013, Awana began asking the question, "What is it the church does that leads to lasting faith in children?"

THE GOSPEL (15 MINUTES)

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
SLIDE: The Gospel	THE GOSPEL There is nothing more important than sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with clarity and urgency. It must be the focus of everything we do! Our leadership, Bible teaching and club elements should all revolve around its message.  <i>Transition to video slide.</i>
VIDEO: "God's Big Story" -or- SLIDE: God's Big Story SLIDE: 4 Movements of the Gospel	GOD'S BIG STORY Let's watch this short video to see how our stories and the stories of our kids are to be shaped by God's Big Story.  <i>If you are unable to play the video, expand on the following talking points:</i> • We all use stories to make sense of the world. Our secular culture conditions kids to see the world through a lens that is contrary to Scripture. • The Gospel is God's Big Story that tells us who we are, where we came from, what went wrong and how Jesus makes things right. • God's Big Story takes place over 4 movements: Creation (<i>Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:27</i>), Fall (<i>Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12</i>), Redemption (<i>John 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4</i>) and Restoration (<i>Revelation 21:1-5</i>).  <i>Transition to discussion.</i>
SLIDE: God's Big Story Discussion	DISCUSSION Now that we understand the Gospel as God's Big Story, let's take the next few moments to consider and discuss the following question:  <i>Read from the slide:</i> Why is sharing the Gospel as a story so effective with kids in today's culture?  <i>Allow participants to discuss either in small groups or as a whole.</i>  <i>Focus the group back on the trainer.</i>
SLIDE: God's Big Story	GROUP EXERCISE Everyone sees the world through a specific story, and our kids need to see the world through God's Big Story . This is why the Gospel needs to be more than an add-on or afterthought. It must be the center of your Awana ministry. Every element of club should be built on and point to the Gospel. We should be able to share the good news of Jesus with our kids at any time during club.  <i>Transition to group exercise.</i> With that said, let's take a few minutes and practice telling God's Big Story . Find a partner and tell each other the Gospel using what you have learned in this session.  <i>Allow participants time to practice.</i>  <i>Focus the group back on the trainer.</i>
SLIDE: Gospel Resources	LEARN MORE You all did great! I know children will be blessed by your efforts. If you feel like you need additional practice or more resources on sharing God's Big Story, please take time to review Module 3, Session 2 of the Club training modules within Awana Basics Online or visit www.childdiscipleship.com .  <i>Transition to "Club Overview."</i>

CLUB OVERVIEW (10 MINUTES)

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
SLIDE: Club Overview SLIDE: Clubs and Ages	CLUB AGE GROUPS Before we move into our club demonstration, I'd like to briefly go over the age groups and segments of an Awana club meeting. ✔ <i>Describe each age group from the slides.</i> There are six different age groups in Awana Clubs: • Puggles serves 2 and 3 year old preschoolers. • Cubbies is for preschoolers between the ages of 3 and 5. • Sparks is for elementary kids, Kindergarten through 2nd grade. • T&T serves elementary kids in 3rd to 6th grade. • Trek is for middle school students in 6th through 8th grade and • Journey is for high schoolers, freshman through senior year.
SLIDE: Club Segments	CLUB SEGMENTS While each age group's time at club will vary, there are three main parts to each club meeting: • Large Group Time - is where engaging Bible lessons are taught. Other elements, such as worship songs or announcements, can be added here as well. Anything that promotes growth and deepens belief in Scripture is encouraged during this segment. While one leader presents the lesson, all Awana leaders share the responsibility of creating a great learning experience for the children by encouraging participation, helping them find Bible verses, and managing disruptive behavior. • Small Group Time - huddles a handful of kids around a consistent leader to pray, ask questions, discuss Bible lessons and recite scripture. Small groups help kids become like Christ as they apply God's word to their lives. During Small Group Time, leaders engage the children in discussions and Scripture memorization centered around the lesson's theme. They should also pray for the children, even without specific requests. Pay attention to their learning styles and get to know them, as discipleship is essential during Small Group Time. • Activity or Interaction Time - is when the kids have FUN playing games, making crafts or participating in exciting group activities. This segment cultivates belonging by breaking the ice for newcomers and bringing excitement to clubs as a whole. At least one leader will lead the night's activity while others assist the children by being a team leader, keeping score, helping with crafts, or ensuring their safety. All leaders should encourage and cheer for every child during the activities! We will talk about these elements in depth during the club demonstration. 🔄 <i>Transition to break.</i>
SLIDE: General ABO Logo	BREAK We are going to take a quick break. Feel free to walk around, stretch your legs, grab a snack or run to the restroom. We will start our club demonstration in 10 minutes. ✔ <i>Set up Discovery Tables for each age group if you have not already done so.</i> ✔ <i>Choose 4-5 volunteers during the break to help with the Small Group Demonstration.</i> ✔ <i>Direct participants to the Small Group Demonstration area as they return from break.</i>

PART TWO (50 MIN) - CLUB DEMONSTRATION

Trainer Notes

- ✓ The following Small Group Demonstration uses T&T Evidence of Grace Handbook section 1.2.
- ✓ You may choose to use a different section from any of the T&T Handbooks for the Small Group Demonstration

SMALL GROUP DEMONSTRATION (25 MINUTES)

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
SLIDE: Small Group Demo for T&T	DEMONSTRATION SET UP Welcome back! I hope you feel ready to dive into the second half of our training. For this segment, we are going to take a look at what a T&T Small Group Time looks like. Many of the concepts and group engagement you'll see today are relevant to any age group. ✓ <i>If you didn't choose volunteers during the break, choose them now.</i> For this demonstration, I will need four or five volunteers who are willing to pretend to be third through sixth grade students for the next twenty minutes. ✓ <i>Choose volunteers and seat them at the arranged table and chairs.</i> ✓ <i>Refer to resources as you talk about them.</i> I am going to be the Awana leader for our demonstration. I have my Bible and a copy of the T&T Small Group Guide. Each of my students have a copy of the T&T Handbook and their Bible. Let's all turn to Section 1.2, "God is All-Powerful." Students, don't be concerned if you don't know the verse or have not looked at the section. Many kids will come unprepared each week. ✓ <i>Engage with participants who will be observing the demonstration.</i> Those of you who are not part of the demonstration can come around the table and observe from behind. Please be looking for the 3 Bs: Belong, Believe and Become throughout the demonstration. ✓ <i>Explain rules for the demonstration.</i> Now there are a few rules before we start. 1. Volunteer 3rd-6th graders, you cannot be the worst kid you've ever experienced in kids ministry. 2. Observers, you must hold all adult Awana questions until after the demonstration. ✓ <i>Sit down with the group to begin the demonstration.</i>

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
	OPENING MOMENTS ✓ <i>Start by asking students about their week and any prayer requests they shared from the previous week.</i> ✓ <i>Use your participants' names instead of the example names below.</i> Hey kids, I'm so glad you made it to T&T! How has everyone's week been? → <i>Allow students to respond.</i> → <i>Follow up on prayer requests.</i> Jenny, how is your mom? You said she was sick last week. → <i>Allow response.</i> Noah, did you find your dog? How long was he gone? → <i>Allow response.</i> Bailey, did your team win the soccer game? → <i>Allow response.</i>  <i>Transition to an opening prayer.</i>
	OPENING PRAYER ✓ <i>Thank God for His Word and ask Him to help the kids understand how powerful He is as they look at the Scriptures.</i> ✓ <i>Specific prayer requests will be handled at the end.</i> Lord, thank You for all the kids who made it to T&T tonight and that we get to study Your amazing Word together. Please help us to understand how powerful You are as we look at Your Word. We love You. Amen.
	START HERE ACTIVITY ✓ <i>Engage participants in a Start Here Activity.</i> Alright friends, who is your favorite superhero and why? → <i>Allow students to respond.</i> → <i>Share your own answer.</i> My favorite superhero is Batman because he wears the coolest costume! I have another question! What superpower do you wish you had? → <i>Allow students to respond.</i> → <i>Share your own answer.</i> If I could have any superpower I would want to be able to fly! I think it would be so cool to see the earth from way up high in the air!  <i>Transition to Explore.</i>

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
	EXPLORE This week's memory verse talks about how God is all-powerful and even talks about some of the powers He has. Let's read Jeremiah 10:12 together. → <i>Read Scripture.</i> Wow, God is so powerful He was able to make the earth! Let's look at our Explore and learn more about how powerful God is. Who would like to help me read 1 Kings 18:30-40? → <i>Allow response.</i> → <i>Give direction for reading.</i> Awesome! Thank you so much for volunteering. Let's each take a few verses and go around the table. → <i>Take turns reading 1 Kings 18:30-40.</i> You are all such great readers! Thank you! What did Elijah's altar look like after he built it? → <i>Allow response.</i> You're right! He used stones, dug a trench around it and poured water all over it. Do you think all that wet wood is going to burn? → <i>Allow response.</i> No, not normally! What did the altar look like after Elijah called on God to burn it? → <i>Allow response.</i> Yes! There was nothing left. Even the rocks burned up! That's how powerful our God is!  <i>Transition to Memorize.</i>
	MEMORIZE Let's read our memory verse, Jeremiah 10:12, together again.  <i>Transition to Make It Stick Activity.</i>

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
	MAKE IT STICK → Engage participants in any Make it Stick Activity in the Small Group Leader Guide. This script will focus on memory helps for Jeremiah 10:12. You will be using index cards instead of a song for this demonstration. → Use the index cards you prepared for Jeremiah 10:12, instructing participants to put the cards together and read the verse. I have all the words from Jeremiah 10:12 written out on these index cards. Let's try to put them in the right order and say the verse together. What does it mean when the verse says He created the earth by His power? → Allow one of the students to respond and share their thoughts. Give guidance as necessary. → Instruct students to turn four cards over and read the verse again, helping each other with the missing words. Now that you have turned over a few of the cards, can you say the verse without them? → Allow students to try to say the verse. What does it mean when it says, "He established the world by His wisdom?" → Allow one of the students to respond and share their thoughts. Give guidance as necessary. → Instruct a student to turn four more cards over and read the verse again, helping each other with the missing words. Let's turn a few more cards over and try to say the verse again. → Allow students to try to say the verse. What do you think it means when it says He stretched out the heavens by His discretion or understanding? → Allow one of the students to respond and share their thoughts. Give guidance as necessary. → Instruct a different student to turn four more cards over and read the verse again, helping each other with the missing words. Do you think we can say the whole verse if we turn all the cards over? Let's give it a try. → Turn all the cards over and say the memory verse as a group, helping each other as needed. Can anyone say the verse on their own? → Allow students to try. Give helps as needed. → Congratulate the kids on their hard work. You all did so well! I'm so proud of you!  Transition to prayer.

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
	PRAYER → Ask for prayer requests. We are going to bring our prayer requests to the Lord. Does anyone want to share a prayer request? → Allow for response. → Write down requests. → Close in prayer. Does anyone want to pray over these requests? → Allow student to pray. → Transition to Game Time. Alright! Let's head to Game Time!
	SUMMARY Awesome! Can we thank our 3rd-6th grade volunteers? → Begin clapping to show appreciation. You all can go back to your regular seats. → Allow participants to return to their places. At the end of Small Group Time, in addition to transitioning to another part of club, leaders may sign off on completed sections in a student's handbook and record achievements for award tracking. → Transition to discussion. Before we head over to the Discovery Tables, let's take a few moments to unpack our Small Group Demonstration.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (5 MINUTES)

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
SLIDES: Small Group Discussion	DISCUSSION → Discuss one or two of the following questions as a group. What did you see or experience? How did you see Awana's 3B ministry philosophy (Belong, Believe and Become) in the Small Group demonstration? How were kids engaged in Scripture? → End group discussion and 🔄 Transition to Discovery Tables.

CLUB DISCOVERY TABLES (20 MINUTES)

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
SLIDE: Discovery Tables	DISCOVERY TABLES → Send participants to Discovery Tables based on the age group they will be working with. → If participants do not know what age group they will be working with, they can choose their favorite age group or visit several tables. → Each Discovery Table has a guide to help direct them in discovery of the curriculum resources.
SLIDE: Clubs and Ages	AGE GROUP RECAP Let's review the age groups for each part of Awana Clubs. → Briefly explain Awana age groups as you direct leaders to each table. Puggles is for children ages 2-3 years old. Cubbies is for 3 - 5-year-olds. Sparks is for K - 2nd grade. Truth and Training or T&T is for 3rd - 6th grade. Trek is for 6th - 8th grade. Journey is for 9th - 12th grade. We also have a Discovery Table specifically for Game Directors. Secretaries and Awana Ministry Directors can choose to visit one table or rotate from table to table.
SLIDE: Discovery Tables	DISCOVERY TABLE EXPLANATION Once you are at a table, use the Discovery Table Guide. → Hold up a Discovery Table Guide. It explains each resource at the table and will guide you through questions and discussion about the resources. Try to complete as many of them as you can. → Visit tables as participants go through the Discovery Table Guides. → Answer questions and point out resources participants have not yet begun to engage with. → Be mindful of the time!
SLIDE: Discovery Table Discussion	DISCUSSION → Gather participants together and go through one or two of the following questions as a group. What got you excited about your role in Awana as you looked through the curriculum? What is the biggest question you need answered before your first Awana Club meeting?  Transition to closing session.

PART THREE (15 MIN) - CLOSING SESSION

Audio/Visual	Trainer Notes
SLIDE: Power of a Loving, Caring Adult SLIDE: Faith of Our Children Book	POWER OF A LOVING, CARING ADULT We have covered a lot of ground in a short amount of time! We've learned about Awana, its discipleship philosophy and everything needed for each age group within clubs. While these things are important, they lack power without a loving, caring adult. In fact, Scripture and research show that relationships serve as the primary catalyst for faith formation. This was made abundantly clear in Faith of our Children, a book that analyzes multiple research projects commissioned by Awana. The research revealed that children possessing a meaningful relationship with an adult are, among many things, more likely to engage in their church and nearly 3 times more likely to be rooted in Scripture. God works through relationships to form faith and change lives!  Transition to video or testimony. ✔ <i>CHOOSE ONE of the following options:</i>
SLIDE: Power of a Loving, Caring Adult	OPTION 1: TESTIMONY ✔ <i>Share your own story of how a loving, caring adult impacted your spiritual development.</i>  Transition to discussion.
SLIDE: Power of a Loving, Caring Adult	OPTION 2: TESTIMONY ✔ <i>Ask participants to turn to their neighbor to share their stories of how a loving, caring adult impacted their spiritual development.</i>  Transition to discussion.
VIDEO: The Future of the Church OR How Do Our Kids Navigate a Broken World	OPTION 3: VIDEO  Let's watch a short video entitled "The Future of the Church" OR "How Do Our Kids Navigate a Broken World"  Transition to discussion.
SLIDE: Reflect	DISCUSSION I am sure there are many stories of people who have invested in the lives of those in this room today. Would anyone like to share about someone who invested in your life? ✔ <i>Allow a few participants to share a testimony of their own discipleship.</i>  Transition out of participant testimony time.

