

PARENT MANUAL 2022-2023



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FROM THE COMMANDER'S HEART

Welcome to the AWANA Club. It is great to have your child/children and you as a parent or guardian as part of our AWANA program.

The goal of AWANA is to "reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him." It is important that we understand the gospel (The Good News of Jesus Christ), for Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15:1-4 that it is the gospel "by which we are saved." Then he tells us what the Gospel is. "That Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; and that He rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures." The Bible tells us that Jesus paid the price for our sins and because we are sinners (Romans 3:23) we cannot save ourselves. Paul says in Ephesians 2:8-9 that it is not by works but by grace through faith that we are saved. Salvation is a free gift that must be received.

We also believe that knowledge of the Bible will help us grow and be strong; therefore the AWANA program puts a lot of emphasis on the Bible and memorizing Bible truths. As parents, AWANA can help you share the love of Jesus and His promise of salvation with your child as well as help you build the foundation of strength in Jesus through the knowledge of the Bible by memorizing verses.

It is my hope that we can work together this year to build up our children through the tools that AWANA provides. If the Bible memorization or anything about AWANA or your child's spiritual growth in general raises a question or problem, please do not hesitate to call me so we can work it out. Together, we can help the child understand the gospel, grow in a commitment to Jesus, and become strong to serve God.

Our prayer is that all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul Blake

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About AWANA?

The word AWANA stands for **A**pproved **W**orkmen **A**re Not **A**shamed, and comes from 2 Timothy 2:15. AWANA is a fun and exciting way for children to learn Scripture and it works!

The purpose of the Awana ministry is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him...

Understanding the acronym helps, but what is AWANA?

1. **A Time to Play:** AWANA incorporates intentional, engaging activities for kids. Sometimes these are highly organized competitions and events, while at other times it's more relaxed fun. For children, play is work—it's how they learn, grow, interact, create, discover, and so much more.
2. **A Place to Belong:** Kids need physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe environments, especially in the context of a Christ-centered family of faith. Matching vests and t-shirts may help kids feel included, but shared experiences, stories, and memories are way more important for relational bonding.
3. **A Space to Grow:** AWANA is purposefully designed to move kids (and leaders) forward from salvation toward spiritual maturity in Christ. It presents the Bible from cover-to-cover, introduces a doctrinal foundation, highlights individuals in Scripture who walked with God, emphasizes the importance of the church and disciple making, and equips participants in spiritual practices like Scripture memory and serving so they will know, love, and serve Jesus Christ for life.
4. **A Mission to Serve:** Jesus' Great Commission in Matt. 28:18-20 is central to what the ministry of Awana is all about—making disciples who make disciples! Children who experience the worldwide mission of God's good news in action as part of a thriving ministry will be ready to carry this baton to the ends of the earth.
5. **A Journey to Remember:** There are people all over the world who credit their walk with Christ today to the faith foundation that was laid as a child in AWANA. Sure, they reflect back on it as a club – for better or worse – but that pales in comparison to their lifetime of vibrant discipleship. You never know how God will use the kids AWANA ministry reaches. Regardless of what their future holds, they will definitely remember more than a kid's club—they'll look back on the beginning of a faith journey that pointed them directly to Jesus forever.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

We are so glad to have your child in Awana this year. We sincerely desire that his or her club experience will be full of fun and learning. You can have an important part in this! In order for your child to get the most out of the Awana program, **your partnership with us in helping your child succeed is essential.**

- All clubbers must be checked in by a parent or guardian and escorted to the gym each club night.
- Parents must have their child's security nametag number to pick them up.
- Pick up clubbers promptly after club.
- Clubbers will not be permitted to leave the building without an adult to pick them up.
- If your child needs to be excused from Game Time, please send a note letting their leader or directors know, otherwise, they will be expected to participate with other clubbers in all activities.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF AWANA

We encourage you to work with your child to help them complete the work in their handbooks. With your help and encouragement, we hope you will see tremendous spiritual growth in your child. Generally, children learn much more and much better when there is support from someone at home. It is best to take a few minutes each day to review the material in the handbook with your child. Make sure you check out the memorization tips on page 5 to know how to help your child get the most out of AWANA.

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. Help your child to attend AWANA every week and to arrive on time consistently. Consistency builds friendships, achievement, and self discipline. Also, make a habit of checking for uniforms, Bibles, AWANA books, and dues before it is time to leave home.
2. Help your child prepare for Club each week by spending time at home reading and reviewing handbook material. You might even consider learning handbook sections yourself! This will demonstrate to your child how important memorizing God's word is to you. Repeated weeks attending without a handbook may result in sitting out during game time.
 - We have created several new ways to keep you informed this year and to help you help your child succeed. Every Friday we will post on Facebook and Instagram the verses that your child will be learning for the next week. During the week, help your child prepare the verses for the following week. This will help them complete their handbook, stay on track and earn awards as they move through the book.
 - There is also a Spotify track available for all handbooks. Listening to these soundtracks while in the car or during playtime or bedtime can help your child make great progress in their memory work.
3. ALWAYS encourage your child. Children have much more fun when Mom & Dad show interest in their accomplishments. Encourage your child as handbook sections are passed! Achievement is hard work. When you sense your child is giving up, remind him or her of the rewards that await those who persevere.
 - Encourage your child to come to Club prepared by:
 - Wearing the AWANA uniform.
 - Bringing his or her handbook.
 - Bringing their Bible.
4. Help your child participate in our special theme nights. Theme nights help boys and girls look forward to coming to Awana. On those nights that require "special" preparations, please encourage your child to participate. Please refer to the Awana calendar for our theme nights.
5. Attend all major events. Parents are always welcome and are encouraged to attend special events as a way of showing your support and approval for your child's accomplishments.
6. Review the discipline guidelines in this handbook with your child. AWANA has very few rules of behavior, but in order to ensure that all clubbers have the opportunity to learn as well as have some fun, some rules of behavior will be enforced.
7. Feel free to share with us your questions, concerns and ideas.

BRING A FRIEND REQUIREMENT

Most AWANA handbooks have a requirement that clubbers bring a friend to AWANA. For this requirement to be met, the friend must be someone who does not attend AWANA at MSBC

Bring-A-Friend Options

The intent of the Bring-A-Friend sections in the handbook is to give friends the opportunity to hear the gospel at club. We realize that it is sometimes difficult to bring a friend. If your child has

tried to bring a visitor without success, we have provided alternative activities to help them accomplish their handbook sections.

- Ask your leader for the bring a friend alternative activity sheet.
- Parents must sign in their child's handbook that their child could not bring a friend and state which option they did to complete the section in their handbook.
- The following suggestions will be accepted:
- With a parent visit a "shut-in." One visit can count for multiple children in the same family.
- With a parent visit a nursing or retirement home to visit a resident. One visit can count for multiple children in the same family.
- Bring one friend (of any age) to any service at MSBC. This includes special events: Trunk or Treat, Christmas Eve.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome and children are requested to bring a friend or complete an alternate assignment. If your child is bringing a friend please have their parents complete the awana registration form for their child - not you. We LOVE for clubbers to invite visitors to our AWANA club; in fact, we STRONGLY encourage them to invite their friends, family, and neighbors!

We love visitors! They are welcome to our club, but on the 3rd visit to our club we expect them to become a club member! On the 1st visit, if the visitor is in a different grade from the clubber who invited them, they may go with the clubber who brought them. If the same child visits thereafter, they must attend the club/grade they are currently in (Exceptions, for example, if the visitor is a three-year-old, they cannot go with the older grades). If there are any questions, please see the Commander

CLUB MEETING DAYS AND TIMES

We meet on Thursdays and club begins promptly at 6:00 PM. Clubbers may arrive as early as 5:45 PM. Club ends at 7:30 PM. Please be prompt in picking up your child inside the church.

Typically, one Thursday each month is reserved for a special "Theme Night." A calendar listing the dates and themes will be handed out.

Sparks and T&T will end their evenings in the auditorium with an awards ceremony around 6:50 pm. All parents are encouraged to come and watch their children receive their hard earned awards!

AWANA PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

In order for our Awana Club to be a safe and fun learning environment for all the clubbers, we have established the following guidelines. Parents should read these together with their child.

1. Arrive on time. Awana begins at 6:00 pm. Please arrive a few minutes early for check in so that you will be ready to begin on time.
2. Come prepared. Always bring your Bible, Handbook or Start Zone booklet and wear your uniform if you've earned one. Self-discipline and self-esteem are developed through the learning of God's word.
3. Participation. All our children are involved in playing games, memorizing scripture and listening during large group time. We require that children stay with their leaders in their age level club at all times and never leave the church grounds without permission.
4. Be a good listener. We want every child to have a safe enjoyable time at the club. Remember to quiet down and come to attention whenever a leader begins to speak.

5. Show respect to others at all times. Treat everyone like you wish to be treated. You will be asked to sit on the sideline during games if you are disrespectful and do not play by the rules.
6. Respect and take care of church property and club equipment.
7. Label personal belongings. Make sure your first and last names are written on any item you bring to Awana.

WHAT TO BRING TO AWANA

- Children and youth attending Awana should wear comfortable clothing and “tennis” shoes in order to participate in the activities held on a typical evening. Some activities may be difficult to participate in wearing skirts, heels, flip-flops, sandals, dress shoes, etc. If wearing a skirt please make sure your child wears shorts underneath.
- Their Bible and Awana Handbook in a handbook bag (or small bag they can carry) with a writing utensil.
- Your child should not bring other items with them. If your child does bring something which does not pertain to Awana with them and a leader sees it, your child will be asked to put it away and keep it out of sight. If a leader sees the item again, the leader will confiscate the item until the end of the Awana club night.

CLUB RULES

- Respect God • Respect Your Leaders • Respect Other Clubbers
- *Wear your uniform each club night.
- *Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Keep all personal items, like toys and electronics, food, gum and candy at home.
- *No hanging around in the hallways. Stay in assigned areas.
- *Listen for the 5-count. When a leader starts counting to five, clubbers are to stop what they are doing and listen for instructions.
- *Study at home. Be prepared to say the weekly section(s) when you come to club.
- *There is NO playing during Small Group. After saying your verse(s) for the night, sit quietly, and study for next week’s verses.
- *Verses are said during Small Group unless approved by the Commander.
- *Only two helps are allowed per section. You must say the entire section at one time. Your leader will assist you if you are having problems with completing a section.
- *Be Respectful Be Safe Be Responsible
- *Use kind words
- *Walk in hallways and buildings
- *Participate in activities
- *Stay on church property
- *Encourage others and work together
- *Pay attention to others as you move and play
- *Bring your handbook and Bible
- *Take care of church property
- Review the Verse Schedule to see when sections are to be completed.
- *During Game Time, give full attention to the Game Directors as well as your leaders. Listen to the instructions so you will know how to play the games. Cheer for your team, but always show good sportsmanship toward the other teams and your own team.
- *All clubbers are expected to participate during game time unless there is a physical limitation.
- *RUN in games. WALK in the hallways.
- *Please wear appropriate clothing & shoes for game activities!

- *Game Time - we suggest clubbers wear proper running shoes. We prefer tennis shoes. No Heely's are allowed! No short shorts are allowed. The clubber's middle finger should touch the bottom of their shorts when they are standing up straight.
- *Keep hands, feet and other objects to yourself.
- *No name-calling, inappropriate language, cursing or teasing.
- *You are expected to participate in the flag ceremony, stand at attention, reciting the American & AWANA pledges. During prayer, you are expected to show respect by bowing your head and closing your eyes.
- *Restroom breaks are provided throughout the club night. No child will go to the restroom unescorted!
- *Vulgar language and/or offensive clothing are NOT allowed.
- *If you do not complete a handbook section after 3 consecutive weeks, we will help you get back on track by working with you during your Game Time.
- *Club sign in starts at 5:45 PM. Club starts promptly at 6PM and pick up time is 7:30 PM.

CLUB PROCEDURES

REGISTRATION

Registration can be completed online at www.msbchurch.org. Payments can also be made online through the registration form or made at check in during the first 2 weeks of club.

SECURITY

Check in is in the main lobby from 5:45 – 6. All Clubbers must check in and get their nametag sticker prior to going into the auditorium for Opening Ceremony. The child will be given a nametag similar to Sunday mornings and the parent will be given a pick up tag. The child name tag must be worn by the child and the guardian name tag must be presented to designated leaders when picking up the child at the end of the evening. If someone else will be picking up the child, a photo of the name tag must be taken and texted to the person responsible for picking up the child. At the end of the Awana night, the parent must return to pick up their child and will need to show their pick up tag before their child can be released (photos on phone allowed). Children in Cubbies, Sparks and T&T MUST be picked up by their parent at 7pm. No Awana child will be permitted in the hallways without leader supervision or permission.

We will notify parents when a child is sick, fussy and not adjusting to the Awana night, or in rare instances for disciplinary reasons.

In addition to checking in electronically, clubbers must also check in at the front door where someone will record whether they are wearing their uniform, have their handbook and Bible with them and if they brought a friend. This information will be recorded and the child will receive points accordingly.

CANCELLATIONS

MSBC Awana follows the Oneonta City Schools schedule . If Oneonta City Schools cancels school on an AWANA day for weather related issues, we will not have AWANA that evening. We will send out an all-Awana email. You can also check on inclement weather cancellations by visiting our Awana Facebook page.

Unforeseen cancellation related announcements will also be made via email, on the church website at www.msbchurch.org, and on the church and AWANA Facebook pages.

ATTENDANCE

Club attendance awards (blue jewels) are given four times each AWANA year. Children may have three absences each quarter and still earn their blue jewel for that quarter. Your child will be considered to have regular attendance if he/she has no more than two unexcused absences per quarter.. Illness and family emergency are considered “excused absences” if documented by a note from a parent or a call or an email to the director. Please remember to inform us of “excused absences” at the sign-in table.

UNIFORMS:

The AWANA uniform is a vital part of the AWANA Club. We encourage every clubber to be in uniform every Awana club night as it is the “display board” for achievements. For this reason, if a clubber is not in uniform we will not present the award to the clubber until the clubber wears his/her uniform. Awana encourages looking and working as a team and the goal of each AWANA Club is to have 100% of its attendees in uniform. A properly worn uniform helps AWANA clubbers and leaders earn respect and credibility.

All children and leaders are expected to wear their uniform or vest each week. **Please write your child’s name in ink on the inside tag of the shirt or vest.** The uniform is to be clean and all awards properly affixed. The handbook for each Club shows how the awards are to be located on the uniform. If you have questions, please contact the commander, Paul Blake or the Secretary, Paula Blake.

- Uniforms are to be worn with any theme night.
- If your child does not wear their uniform to club, we will keep their awards until they have their uniform on.

MEMBERSHIP & COST

The cost for the year is \$25 and covers the cost of uniforms and books. This money also helps cover expenses such as weekly awards, supplies, special events, shipping costs and end of the year awards.

- There is a multiple family discount for those families with more than 2 children.
- Scholarships are available. Please see Paul Blake if financial assistance is needed.
- Please do not allow cost to keep your child from being AWANA.

The first uniform is included with the dues for the year. If your child’s uniform or handbook is lost an additional one may be purchased:

Cubbies vest \$12.00

Sparks vest \$12.00

T&T shirt \$16.00

Handbooks: \$10.00

There may also be occasional events and activities throughout the year which will have a cost associated with them. You will receive information about these activities throughout as the event approaches.

Please do not let finances stand in the way of your child participating in Awana. If there is a financial need, please email Paul Blake, childrensministrydirector@msbchurch.org . Please know we will work with you so your child may continue to participate in our Awana ministry.

HANDBOOKS

- Bible references must be said, either at the beginning or end of the verse.
- Clubbers may be given 2 helps per section. "Help" is whatever aid the leader chooses to assist a clubber in the completion of a section. One help would equal no more than three words or any other hint.
 - Those with learning disabilities may be allowed more than two helps (at the discretion of the Leader or Director).
 - Sparks are allowed no helps when they are reviewing handbook sections.
- Each handbook has a printed schedule of the sections that are due each week. Your clubber will bring a printed copy home. The weekly verse schedule will be posted on the AWANA facebook and instagram pages.
 - Please note the "AT HOME" sections on each handbook schedule.
Parents...please help your child succeed by working on these prior to club.
- Parents may not sign off sections for their own child. If your child has multiple sections to say leave a note on the front of the handbook so the leader will see it.
- Don't forget to bring your handbook and Bible to club every week!!!
 - If you didn't bring a handbook ask your teacher if you may borrow a book and study during handbook time.
- Bible reading sections should be done at home. Each Bible reading section has two or three parts to be completed on different days. The goal is to help clubbers develop a daily quiet time.
- Since handbooks are sometimes misplaced during Club meetings, instruct your child to take care of his/her handbook. Please write names with ink on the inside and outside of your child's handbook to help the leaders get a misplaced handbook back to the right child.

VERSE SCHEDULES

We are doing "Together We Move" in our club. Which means the clubbers are completing the same verse each week according to the verse schedules that will be given to your child. Be sure to follow the verse schedule, so that you and your child will know which section to work on each week. These schedules will also be on our church website at www.msbchurch.org in case your child loses their schedule.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is essential for the success of the club as well as for the clubbers to receive the discipleship at home to memorize verses and complete sections in their Handbooks. Use the established Verse Schedule to complete the handbook by the end of the year. To complete the handbook by May, the assigned sections should be studied at home. If a child works on their handbooks ten minutes each day, they can complete the book in 1 year. Clubbers should become familiar with their book early in the year so that the charts, projects, and crafts have enough time to be completed. If a child misses a night extra help at home will be needed to help them catch up. Leave a note for your teach or speak to an AWANA team member when dropping off your child to let us know your child has extra verses to say to get caught up.

GAME TIME

Most club nights have a Game Time. AWANA uses a Game Director whose job is to lead Game Time. The Game Director explains new games, uses other leaders to assist, and officiates the games. It is important for clubbers to participate and pay attention so as not to waste time for others. Game Time is fun only if we can keep it fast paced and get everyone involved. Any

parents or leaders in the room are expected to help out a team and cheer that team on! Sportsmanship is an important trait to model for the kids. AWANA publishes several books of games, plus we make up some of our own. Points may be awarded for each game. The game points are added to the points earned by each Clubber for completing Handbook sections, among other things as listed below:

Awana Store (Sparks and T&T)

Our purpose of MSBC AWANA Club is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and to train them to serve Him. This training involves a tremendous amount of scripture memorization. Having God's word hidden in the clubbers' hearts is a priceless reward in itself. But sometimes children don't always realize how important hiding God's word in our heart is! (And children are not alone, even adults lose track of the importance of Scripture memorization from time to time) So, we provide an incentive for the clubbers to work extra-hard and memorize as many verses as possible. Even though they receive the regular uniform awards and other items, we provide the AWANA Store as an added incentive. We have stocked our store with toys, candy, games, jewelry, and various other items that clubbers will enjoy.

They earn AWANA Points for each verse recited, as well as club attendance, bringing visitors and various other contests or challenges. The clubbers accumulate their Points, and then can spend them on the dates listed on the calendar, or can save them and spend them on the next store night. So, help and encourage your clubber to memorize their verses.

Points are given for the AWANA store to each club member based on the following:

Attendance at club: 10 points

Wearing their Uniform: 10 points

Bringing their Bible to Club: 10 points

Bringing a friend: 100 points

Participation in a Theme night at club: 10 points

Many things are available at the AWANA Store. The AWANA Store is open 2-3 times during the year.

AWARDS CEREMONIES

At the end of each night, SPARKS and T&T have a closing awards ceremony at 6:50. Parents are encouraged to attend this ceremony and stand with their children on their color lines while all award recipients are being recognized.

On the final night of the AWANA year, Thursday, May 18th, from 6 - 7:30, the annual AWANA Awards Ceremony will be held. This Awards Ceremony will recognize each and every clubber who has regularly attended AWANA with a participation certificate. Those clubbers who have completed handbooks will receive the appropriate award for the number of handbooks they've finished.

DISCIPLINE

CLUB EXPECTATIONS:

Please review these expectations with your child:

1. Keep your hands to yourself
2. Proper speech – speak to others with respect
3. Respect Leaders and others

Awana uses two counts, one for an individual and one for the group. If you have any questions about clubber expectations or the Count System, please speak with Paul Blake, the Commander.

When a clubber does not follow expectations, we will use the 3- Count System. The "3-count" is for an individual. The child is given a "one" the first time they have misbehaved and their action is discussed so they understand the inappropriate behavior. If the child continues to misbehave, then they receive a "two". They may lose privileges for the evening. The ministry Director will be notified. If the child continues to misbehave or be disruptive, they receive a "three". When the child receives a "three", the parents will be notified by the Commander and the Clubber will be picked up from club. The Ministry Director will discuss with the parent the reason for this action. He or she may be asked to skip a week of club as a result of poor choices.

5-COUNT When an AWANA leader begins to count to five, all clubbers, parents, & leaders are to be quiet immediately. The 5 Count is for the whole group. As the leader counts to "5", the children should become quiet and still.

The Awana leaders realize that there are many family situations that may affect a child's behavior. We encourage you to let your child's Awana leader know if there is any situation that may help us in ministering to your child. This helps the Awana leader to potentially minister to the child as opposed to just viewing a situation or action as a discipline problem.

NOTE: At no time will a leader abuse, hit, or verbally abuse a child. Spanking is the responsibility of the parents. MSBC takes very seriously its responsibility to provide a safe environment for children. If your child claims to have been hit by a leader, contact the Commander immediately!

WELLNESS POLICY

ACCIDENTS/SICKNESS: If a child gets sick at AWANA, we will contact the parent and have the parent pick up the child. Please do not bring sick children.

MEDICAL RELEASE: The registration form contains a medical release. This form gives AWANA leaders permission to get emergency care, if deemed necessary. Without the Medical Release we will have to wait until the parent is contacted before we can get emergency help. Minor injuries will be treated by the leaders unless we have been requested in writing not to do so.

ALLERGIES OR CHRONIC ILLNESSES: If your child has a medical condition (e.g., asthma, epilepsy, diabetes) or allergies, please provide that information on their Medical Release so we are appropriately informed in case of an emergency.

As we all know, sickness can keep going around with children, affecting not only the other children in your child's Awana group, but your family and other families as the illness goes "back and forth" between the children.

***We kindly ask that you do not bring your child to a church sponsored event (Young Disciples, MOM's, AWANA, or VBS) if they have experienced any of the following within**

24-48 hours:

- Fever
- Runny nose (with yellow/green discharge)
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Pink-eye
- Strep throat
- Common cold symptoms
- Flu symptoms
- Rash of any kind
- or, any other questionable symptoms

***If your child is on an antibiotic, he/she must be on it for at least 24 hours before attending a church sponsored event.**

BIBLE MEMORIZATION TIPS

Children learn through hearing, understanding, and applying. Here are some suggestions or ideas to enhance the learning experience of the clubber. The average child will be adequately prepared for the weekly AWANA Club meeting if he or she spends 10 minutes a day in the club handbook. Help your child develop the 10 minute-a-day habit early in the club year.

1. Make sure the clubber understands or knows how to pronounce all words. Use the explanation provided in the handbook for certain words.
2. Repeat the material with the clubber over and over again.
3. Break up the material into increments of a few words or phrases. Say words and phrases and ask the clubber to repeat after you. Through repetition, the clubber should memorize material.
4. Write the material on a chalkboard or paper. Ask the clubber to read it aloud. Erase or cover up a few words and ask the clubber to try reading the material again. Keep erasing or covering up words until the entire verse is erased or covered and clubber has memorized it.
5. Write words or phrases of verses on 3x5 cards. Shuffle the cards and ask the clubber to arrange them in order.
6. Say the verse into a recording device. Listen to the verse over and over / or say the verse into the recording device and play it back to check accuracy.
7. Use the Spotify links on our website and listen in your car or at home.

YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE MEMORIZING VERSES... 1) Dedicate a certain time for review each day. 2) Play memorization games – see Power Up website for list 3) Put the books in the car and review while on the road (No accidents please 😊) 4) Create or buy flash cards & use them 😊 (Verse Reference on front, Verse on back) 5) Purchase CDs and listen in the car to and from activities or at home a. New Sparks HangGlider book comes with a CD, use it! b. If you have an MP3 player download it and listen to it any time! 6) Visit parent tips, blogs, forums @ www.awana.org for ideas 7) Have your older child write out the verse with colorful markers or calligraphy, have your younger child color a page with the verse on it.

For Non-Readers and Readers:

*Start by saying the verse several times. Try to make sure the child understands the basic concept of the verse.

*Make repetition fun. Repeat the verse here and there throughout the day.

*Put the words of the verse to music (CD's are included for many handbooks.)

*Use pictures to help the child associate the word with an idea.

*Dramatically emphasize important words.

*Use various activities to make learning exciting.

For Readers:

*Define difficult words while practicing a verse for memorization.

*Personal Identification – Clubbers insert their own names into a verse. For example, “God so loved (Alex), that He gave...”

*Personal Application – Applying the message of a verse to a personal experience increases retention.

*Hand motions – Parents use hand motions (or sign language) to illustrate the words and thoughts of a passage.

For example, “For the Lord (points upwards) Himself shall descend (lower your hand) from heaven with a shout (hand beside mouth), with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet (position hand like you’re playing a trumpet) of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise (raise your hand) first: then we (point to yourself) which are alive and remain shall be caught up (raise hand slowly) together with them in the clouds to meet (pretend to shake hands) the Lord into the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

I Thessalonians 4:16-17.

*Write and Erase – Write the Bible verse down on something that is easy to erase. Then, as a word or phrase is erased, the child remembers the missing words and recites the verse. Repeat the procedure until all words are erased or the verse is memorized.

*Parent/Child Recitation – Take turns with your child reciting the verse or alternate with your child saying parts of verse.

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