





## **ASLAN ACADEMY QUICK START GUIDE**

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.
(1 John 3:18)

#### **WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!**

You have recognized the need for intentional family discipleship in your home and community and feel called to provide this opportunity to your friends. What can you do to begin an Aslan Academy group of your own? Just follow the simple steps below.

#### WHY are you doing this?

So that you and your fellow parents, grandparents and other caring adults will experience authentic spiritual growth in the context of Christian fellowship in order to become more effective in helping your children to know and trust Christ, and to set that precedent for your children.

## **PRAY**

- For God's leading and direction.
- That God would use you for His purposes.
- That God would lead you to the people whom He intends for your group.
- For each family and each child and teen, to grow spiritually as individuals.
- For every adult to grow in his/her ability to effectively disciple their children.

#### WHAT IS YOUR JOB?

Discern which of 2 (or both) primary roles God wants you to fill:

- ORGANIZER (group logistics, communication)
- FACILITATOR (small group discussion, social dynamics)

#### **HOW DO YOU BEGIN?**

- Keep praying over all your efforts and the people involved.
- Discuss your plans with your family so that they clearly understand the plan and look forward to the new opportunity.





- Develop a list of potential members and contact them by phone.
- Purchase Keeping the Faith guidebook available through the C.S. Lewis Institute
  website and read the "Notes for Small Group Leaders." Each household will purchase
  a copy. www.cslewisinstitute.org

#### WHO WILL JOIN YOU?

It is recommended that discussion groups be small. It is hard to have interactive discussions with groups larger than thirteen, including the discussion facilitator.

Prayerfully make a list of 5-10 individuals or households who might benefit from the Aslan Academy experience.

\* Remember, you are offering to share a journey with them, not "recruiting" or "fixing" them.\*

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Delegate: Don't be afraid to delegate, especially for larger groups. People like to contribute and actually become more committed when they play a role in the group, even if it's just preparing refreshments or setting up chairs.

Childcare: The options for childcare will vary with the nature of the small group. If a church is sponsoring an Aslan Academy program, perhaps the group could be scheduled at a time when childcare is already available; otherwise, make arrangements to provide it for the Aslan Academy program. In the case of a home group, families can pitch in together to hire a babysitter to watch the children in another room or at a different house nearby, or the older children and/or a rotation of parents can supervise without much overhead.





## WHERE WILL YOU MEET?

A home, church or community center. Adjust location as fits the changing needs of the group. List two potential locations to explore and a person to contact (POC).

LOCATION	POC INFO	CONTACT LOG

## WHEN WILL YOU MEET?

Meeting times are usually determined by the facility or host together with the group members, once you have identified them. The guidebook is organized for 2 meetings per month, over a period of about 8 months, but that schedule can be tailored to fit your group's preferences. Below is a suggested schedule.

DATE	EVENT	ACTIVITY / THEME	воокѕ
Late Spring	Info Meeting	Recruit, Q&A, Begin Sign-Ups	
Summer	Prep your home	Pray. Encourage the reading and audiobook habit in everyone. Downplay elec- tronic media. Buy program books	Bible, optional "fun" books
September	Meeting A		Guidebook, Faith Begins at Home:
	Meeting B		Family Makeover
October	Meeting A	Theme 2: Biblical Parenting	Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles
	Meeting B	1 dicitally	That Can Radical- ly Change Your Family





DATE	EVENT	ACTIVITY / THEME	воокѕ		
	Meeting B				
November	Meeting A	Theme 3: Back to the Basics	The Big Story		
	Meeting B	the basics			
December		Christmas Party Fellowship			
January	Meeting A	Theme 4: Practi-	Gospel-Centered		
	Meeting B	cal Application of Biblical Truths	Family		
February Meeting	Meeting A	Theme 5: Under- standing and	The Prodigal God		
	Meeting B	Encouraging Heart Change			
March	Meeting A	Theme 6: Devel- oping Character	Raising Kids with		
	Meeting B	That Lasts	Criaracter		
April	Meeting A	Theme 7: Intro- ducing Spiritual Disciplines to Your Children	Habits of a Child's Heart		
	Meeting B		rieart		
May	Meeting A	Theme 8: Teach- ing Your Children	Sticky Faith Guide		
	Meeting B	How to Explain Their Faith			

## **MAKE THE CALL**

A personal invitation or a phone call is the preferred method of communication, as an impersonal email might be overlooked and does not provide immediate conversational answers to questions. Email is great for follow-up.





#### FIRST CONTACT:

You will initially be inviting people simply to learn more at an information meeting.

\*You will have time to read the Small Group Leaders' Guide in the *Keeping the Faith Guidebook* and will be able to answer the following questions more thoroughly at the meeting:

- 1. How much time will it take for me to prepare for and do the assigned reading/study for a meeting?
- 2. How long will the Aslan Academy small group last?
- 3. What kind of homework is involved?
- 4. Does it cost anything?
- 5. Do you have to know a lot of Bible or be able to pray out loud to be in the group?
- 6. How many people will be in the group?
- 7. What are we going to do in the meetings?
- 8. Who else is coming?
- 9. Do you provide childcare?
- 10. Would it be a problem for me to leave the group after a month or two if I find it's just not for me?

## **FOLLOW UP:**

Follow up your phone call with an email restating the details of your invitation. It will keep your contact "warm" and help prevent any miscommunication.

## **COMPOSE YOUR ELEVATOR SPEECH:**

Write a short conversational opening statement that gives the purpose for the Aslan Academy small group and invites people to learn more. You may want to schedule an informational meeting prior to making your calls.





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NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	CONTACT LOG

# **DETAILS**

Why	
Who _	
When	
Where	
How	





The purpose of the *Keeping the Faith* guidebook is to provide the framework for the Aslan Academy experience. It organizes the program into sixteen family fellowship Meetings (two per month), where families interact and engage in small group discussions on eight themes related to family discipleship. It provides reading lists for participants to complete in advance of each meeting, Aslan Academy small group agendas, discussion questions, suggestions for meaningful family interaction and activities for each theme, plus Bible studies and articles. It also includes instructions for small group leaders.

The eight themes of the *Keeping the Faith* guidebook are:

- 1. **The Mission.** Strive to become a worthy spiritual leader for your children and to discern God's mission for your family.
- 2. **Biblical Parenting.** Children are a gift from God. As you interact with them, it is important that you remain grounded in God's love and vision for your family.
- Back to the Basics. Whether you are a new or longtime believer, it is important to review the fundamentals of the Bible and the Christian faith as you begin this new chapter in the process of discipling your child.
- 4. Practical Application of Biblical Truths. Use your knowledge of God's Word to help your children understand and live God's plan in their daily lives.
- 5. **Heart Change.** Rather than simply seeking behavior modification, it is important to understand that long-term change comes through authentic heart change, stemming from gratitude to our loving Father and driven by the Holy Spirit.
- Developing Character That Lasts. Learning important character traits can assist in deepening faith and will provide a foundation that will help your child persevere through challenges.
- 7. **Introducing Spiritual Disciplines to Your Children.** Paul encouraged Timothy, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). Engrain healthy spiritual disciplines early in your children's lives.
- 8. **Teaching Your Children How to Explain Their Faith.** Significant numbers of young people leave their faith when challenged in high school, college, or beyond. Children must be equipped to truly understand what they believe, to be prepared to explain and defend their beliefs, and to be comfortable sharing that faith with others.

