

Life-Defining, Long-Lasting Spiritual Impact



Awana Alumni Study Report Summary

The trends are troubling:

- Over half of all church-going teens abandon their faith after high school.
- As few as one in 10 possesses a biblical view of God and the world.
- Bible knowledge among college students has plummeted to all-time lows.
- The majority of children from Christian homes leave the church by age 19.

Unfortunately, these are more than mere statistics. They represent millions of young people around the country.

You might personally know young adults who have fallen away from God. Perhaps they attended your church, hail from your community, are friends of your children or even are part of your family. The crisis they face – and that churches and parents must confront – is all too real.

By contrast, most kids trained in Awana continue to faithfully follow Jesus as adults.

Awana alumni enter adulthood prepared to walk with Christ for life. That was the summary of a recent independent survey of alumni who participated in Awana as youth for six to 10 years. Our adult alumni were asked the same questions posed in a 2005 Baylor University survey that measured the beliefs and behaviors of churchgoers and the general U.S. population.

Results of the Awana and Baylor surveys showed a stark difference between the spiritual beliefs and practices of our alumni and the rest of America. Our alumni were found to be more devoted to God, His Word and their local church than even the nation's most committed churchgoers.

Our survey results made clear why our alumni remain firm in their faith:

Consistent, long-term participation in Awana – accompanied by spiritual training from parents – reaps long-lasting results.

When parents and churches work together to teach God's Word across kids' formative years, they produce young adults marked by steadfast biblical faith and character. Awana calls these young people Modern-Day Josephs because they reflect the faith and character of Joseph from the Old Testament.





To help parents and churches raise Modern-Day Josephs, Awana strategically weaves five master life threads (character traits) into our curriculum for ages 2 to 18:

Respect: Joseph of Genesis respected God's authority.

Wisdom: Joseph was wise and knew his wisdom came from God.

Grace: Joseph practiced grace in his relationships.

Destiny: Joseph had a sense of destiny and purpose drawn from God.

Perspective: Joseph's perspective on life started with the sovereignty of God.

Rock-solid in their beliefs and living out their faith

Here are just a few of the key findings from the Awana alumni study report:

Church attendance – 92.7 percent of Awana alumni continue to regularly attend church as adults, and only 1.8 percent said they had dropped out of church since high school. By comparison, 36 percent of Americans surveyed by Baylor who attended church at age 12 said they are now unchurched as adults.

Belief in God – 93.7 percent of our alumni said they wholeheartedly believe in God as opposed to 65.8 percent of Baylor respondents.

Jesus and salvation – 98.6 percent of alumni believe Jesus is God's Son compared to 70 percent of Americans and 85 percent of Protestants. 93 percent of alumni believe Christ is the only way to salvation. 69.6 percent of Americans believe many roads lead to salvation or do not believe in salvation.

Belief about the Bible – 94 percent of our alumni believe the Bible is God's Word compared to 58 percent of Americans and 73 percent of Protestants. Our alumni are also 3.6 times more likely than other churchgoers and Americans to read, in virtually every case, the Bible several times a week.

Church service – At 74 percent, our alumni were five times more likely than Americans polled by Baylor to serve their church 11 hours or more each month.

Personal evangelism – 70 percent of alumni said they share their faith with friends at least once a month compared to 35.7 percent of the national average, 48.7 percent of Protestants and 59 percent of the most devoted churchgoers.

Next steps

- The complete alumni study report explains in detail the impact Awana makes in kids' lives. Access the report at www.awana.org/alumnistudy.
- To learn more about how Awana can serve you, visit www.awana.org or call 1-888-292-6249.
- To learn more about raising modern-day Josephs, visit www.moderndayjoseph.org or call 877-HI-JOSEPH.



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