


For Churches




# Christian Education Awareness Churches Guide

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.* Proverbs 22:6

ACSI
STRONGER TOGETHER

# Dear Faith Champion,

The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) is delighted to share ways that you can advance Christ-centered education in your faith community. For nearly 50 years, ACSI has equipped Christian schools and educators around the world with solid resources to infuse biblical worldview into academic learning. Now more than ever, the need to strengthen students and educators to stand against secular ideology with a firm faith foundation is crucial.

That's why ACSI developed this downloadable guide with ways you can champion the faith of students and educators in your congregation. While you can implement these ideas however you see fit, we would ask you to consider setting aside a Sunday to pray for students and teachers, no matter their educational environment.

As you utilize this guide, we value your feedback. If something is missing that would be useful to you, or you would like to share a testimony from your church, please email Communications@acsi.org. We pray that God will use your efforts to advance Christ-centered education.

Thanks for standing in the gap!



**Dr. Larry Taylor, Ph.D.**
ACSI President & CEO



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# Faith Teaches

## What a loaded phrase!

Our faith, founded on God's Word, the Bible, brings us truths that transform reason. We see a little boy slaying a giant and, young men standing unharmed in a fiery furnace. We see the Red Sea parted and a family saved from a world-destroying flood. We read about a talking donkey and a burning bush not consumed. We see a queen save her people from destruction and a Savior saving His people from their sin and eternal separation from Him.

## Faith teaches that with God, nothing is impossible.

Our faith teaches us so many things, like the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31, Matt. 7:12). We learn in Galatians about the fruit of the Spirit as we abide in Jesus Christ. Through parables, we learn to care for those in need, to forgive, and to shine brightly for Jesus.

## Faith teaches how to live and follow God.

Our faith is formed in the seconds of a teachable moment, in the tiny deposits of time in the minivan, the minutes hearing God's Word, the hours of learning, and the years of growing.

## Faith teaches anywhere, every day.

As a faith champion, you have the opportunity to remind your faith community about the power of passing on biblical truths to the next generation. May this be your prayer:

*We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.*
Psalm 78:4

# Christian Education Awareness

ACSI created this Christian Education Awareness campaign, “Faith Teaches,” to encourage churches, schools, and parents.

## For Churches

We desire for churches to pray for educators and students, knowing that children spend the most time during their formative years in an educational environment. We believe that the church can come alongside its community to advance Christ-centered education in small or big ways, creating an eternal, next-generation investment today and tomorrow. Whether a church simply prays for students or decides to open their campus Monday through Friday, ACSI wants to support churches in advancing Christ-centered education.

## For Schools

We desire for Christian educators to be equipped and strengthened in the educational environment God has placed them in. We believe that the best soil in which students can grow is a Christ-centered educational environment that infuses biblical worldview training into all academics. This setting helps students learn how to stand against cultural currents seeking to detract from God’s ways. Whether schooling happens under a tree in Uganda, a kitchen table in Kansas, or anywhere in between, ACSI wants to support every child so they have access to Christ-centered education.

## For Parents

We desire for Christian parents to be empowered to provide the best spiritual formation for their children so they can come to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ from an early age. We want to ensure parents understand the educational options they have in order to best educate their children in a personalized manner. Whatever educational path they choose, ACSI seeks to equip parents to fulfill their God-given role as the primary spiritual and educational influence in their children’s lives.



# Eight Ways to Advance Christ-Centered Education

## Celebrate Christian Education Sunday
From simple to elaborate, a church can dedicate a Sunday to the importance of Christ-centered education and the role the parent, church, and school play in a child's life.

## Backpack Blessings
Collect back-to-school supplies and backpacks for children in need in your congregation or community. Pray over them before distributing them at the beginning of the school year.

## Support a Local School
Come alongside a neighborhood school and support them by hosting a fun event or providing needy families with items around the holidays. The ideas are endless!

## Host a Homeschool Co-Op
Whether it's hosting a special event like a music festival or a weekly co-op community, opening your facilities could be a simple way to minister to local families.

## After-School Program
Set up an after-school program to provide character-building activities and homework tutoring to neighborhood children. Retired teachers or loving volunteers from your congregation could support this effort.

## Develop Principal Relationships
Develop relationships with area principals. Offer to pray for them or provide their teacher lounge with snacks. You might be the first call they make if they face a tough situation or know of a family in need.

## Start a Christian School
Open your doors Monday–Friday and start a Christian preschool or something more on your church campus. The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) has timelines and training to walk you through the process at acsi.org/startachristianschool.

## Give to Christ-Centered Education
Ministries like ACSI help advance Christ-centered education around the world. We would be delighted to share ways that your church could support student learning infused by a biblical worldview. Visit acsi.org/church for more information.

# Church Education Sunday Resources

Go to faithteaches.com/churchresources to download the following resources to help you create a Christian Education Sunday at your church:

- PPT Slide
- Bookmarks
- Posters
- Bulletin Insert
- Prayer Cards
- Social Graphics
- Videos

# Christian Education Sunday

## What Is Christian Education Sunday?

Christian Education Sunday can be as simple or as complex as you desire anytime at the beginning of your community's school year. We recommend following National School Choice Week but you can do what best fits your church and community calendar.

## What to Do?

If you create a Christian Education Sunday, use the following suggestions for what to do:

## Leading Up to Christian Education Sunday

- Preview the materials found in this tool kit, pray, and talk with your church leadership about what can be done at your church. Even small acts matter. Thank you in advance for your efforts!
- Use graphics found in this tool kit for your church's social media platforms, newsletter, or church bulletin to the dedicated date you choose.

## Outside of Worship Service

- Set up a booth with prayer cards for teachers or students within your congregation. We suggest only using first names and their grade for student security. You might also want to highlight area schools (preschool through college) to pray for. You can also use the bookmarks with links for parents to learn more about educational options.

## Inside of Worship Service

- Show the "Faith Teaches" video available at acsi.org/faithteaches.
- Have a dedicated prayer time for educators and students in your congregation.
- Allow your children's and youth ministry leads to highlight the ways you serve birth through college in your church.
- Emphasize Christian education through the sermon.
- Allow a local Christian school and/or homeschool co-op to share how they are serving students in your community.

## Beyond Christian Education Sunday

- Use the "Eight Ways to Advance Christ-Centered Education" to minister to your community all year long.

**Do you have a tip for advancing Christ-centered education?**
ACSI would love to share your outreach ideas with others. Send your tips or pictures with the subject line "Church Outreach Ideas" to communications@acsi.org or use #ACSIAdvance.

# Additional Ways ACSI Can Help

The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) exists to strengthen Christian schools and equip Christian educators worldwide as they prepare students academically and inspire them to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

## Want to Start a Christian School?

Your greatest evangelistic and discipleship tool could be opening your doors Monday through Friday and training up the next generation to know, love, and follow Jesus. You could mold the next Daniel and Esther to stand against secular ideology with a firm foundation and biblical worldview. Unite the church, home, and school by exploring Christ-centered education options that will fit your church size and demographics. Learn more at acsi.org/startachristianschool.

## Want to Train Your Parents on Spiritual Formation?

While we know that the Bible is our ultimate guide to living, there are not step-by-step instructions for how to train up a child. At acsi.org/flourishingfamilies, you'll find spiritual formation journey information to share with the parents you serve, as well as trusted resources from ministry partners.

## Want to Provide Parents with Educational Options?

The past few years have given parents a rude awakening to some of the secular ideologies challenging children in public school. What's a parent to do? Instead of invoking guilt, ACSI wants to empower parents to understand their educational options. Download our Parent Educational Option Guide at acsi.org/flourishingfamilies.

## Want to Learn More?

We have resources like *Rethinking Discipleship* or *Future Ready* that can articulate the importance of Christian education along with innovative models. Also, our friends at the North American Mission Board (NAMB), part of the SBC, created a short monograph called "The Christian Education Reformation." Review these resources at our landing page, faithteaches.com/churchresources.



flourishing families



*Equip parents and guardians in their God-given role to disciple their children.*

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