

Breakout 1

Friday, March 6

9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Room 200

Parenting

Carissa Potter

Raising Kids Who Care: Cultivating Compassion in a Self-Focused Culture

From playground conflicts to world events, children are constantly encountering brokenness.

Learn how to cultivate biblical compassion in children through everyday experiences, conversations, and family rhythms that point them toward God's heart for others. Gain practical tools to help kids care deeply, respond wisely, and reflect Christ's love toward both near neighbors and the nations.

Room 202

Parenting

Marianne Howard

From Chaos to Connected: Spiritual Formation for Busy Families

Between the noise, schedules, and screens, it's easy for faith to slip through the cracks. But this session will show you how to equip parents with tools to disciple their kids as they go: in the car, at the table, and during the bedtime routine. Because the best discipleship doesn't require more time . . . just more intention.

Room 203

Discipleship

Crystal Mazzuca

Flip Your Approach: Helpful Tools for Reaching Kids' Hearts

How can we reach hearts more than we focus on outward behavior? Let's flip our approach! This fun, interactive breakout will give you fresh tools to help your team shift from behavior modification to heart transformation. You'll leave encouraged and equipped to reach kids where it matters most—the heart. Perfect for leaders, friends, and influencers who love and lead kids in ministry.

Adams Rooms

Family Ministry

Blake McFarland

Pitching Alignment to Your Pastor

What if your lead pastor's sermon synced with your kids and student ministry lessons? What if your whole church discipled in the same direction—and you weren't carrying that burden alone? In this breakout, we'll explore a tested strategy to help family ministry leaders "lead up" with clarity and humility. You'll walk away with language, rhythms, and practical steps that unite the pulpit, kids, students, and the home into one discipleship community.

Room 141

STARS

Diane Lytle

Purpose, Practice, and Pace in Preschool

This breakout equips preschool leaders and teachers with practical tools to stay motivated and avoid becoming overwhelmed.

Room F

Volunteers

Gary Lindsay

New Leader Essentials: Building Teams That Last

Great ministry happens through strong teams. In this session for new children's ministry leaders, discover how to build key relationships that shape a thriving ministry. Learn practical strategies for recruiting, developing, and caring for your team so they feel empowered, aligned, and equipped to disciple kids and families. Whether you're just starting or stepping into a new season, you'll gain relational tools to lead with confidence and clarity.

Room G

Discipleship

Brian Nelson

Digital Discipleship: Reaching Hearts in the Scroll Age

We're discipling in a distracted age. Students and adults alike are constantly scrolling, and traditional approaches don't always connect. In 2025, Brian launched Bite-Sized Bible, a digital teaching ministry delivering biblical truth in short, engaging formats built for today's culture. This breakout will offer practical ways to use digital spaces for real discipleship—without watering down the message. We'll explore how to translate timeless truth into formats that reach this generation and point them to Jesus.

Room H

Apologetics

Jacklyn Gust

Equipped to Answer: Building a Culture of Apologetics Across the Whole Church

Every believer can be ready to give an answer for their faith—when apologetics becomes a natural part of discipleship. This breakout will give leaders practical tools to help every generation understand what they believe and why it matters. Learn how to create shared language, real-world connections, and safe spaces for honest conversations. Equip your church to answer with truth, confidence, and the hope of the gospel.

Room J

Leadership

Jordan Biel

Break Free From Mindsets That Hinder Your Multiplication

Jordan Biel will share proven techniques and mindsets that will return your joy to leadership and multiply your impact. Experience the revelation of sonship and how it will break you free from traps that stop growth and steal joy and gain free tools to help you equip those you lead to find their calling! This is an often-overlooked part of ministry leadership. Get the tools you need to

“equip the saints for the work of the ministry.” When they embrace *their* calling—not just *your* need—ministry explodes!

Room K-1

Family Ministry

Becky McAllister

Rhythms and Routines

God is with us in every moment. When it comes to the times, ways, and places we can interact with God, there are no limits. In this workshop, you will: discover how to experience God in every aspect of your day, explore common misconceptions about fostering these moments and environments, and learn how to cultivate daily rhythms and routines that deepen your and your children’s intimacy with Jesus while nurturing your souls.

Room K-2

Special Topics

Nathan Sutherland

Walking in Freedom

According to the Barna Research Group, 61 percent of U.S. adults view pornography—and 84 percent of this group say they don’t have anyone helping them avoid pornography. This conversation is designed to help Christians walk in the freedom Christ has given them when it comes to sexual integrity.

Room L

Student Ministry

Ben Birdsong

The Doorway of Doubt: How to Encourage Students to Let Their Doubts Drive Them to Deeper Faith

How the church handles students’ questions and doubts either push students deeper into faith or drives them away from faith. Using the example of “Doubting Thomas,” this breakout explores the role of doubts in each person’s faith journey and helps equip parents and youth leaders to better approach teenagers’ questions and doubts. When approached in a biblical way, doubt can truly be a doorway into a deeper and more personal faith.

Room M

Special Topics

Mike Bell

The Cure for Poverty and a Broken World

Poverty is a cruel reality for millions of image bearers. However, it isn’t inevitable based on location or a lack of natural resources. Many things are believed to be responsible for this pernicious condition. But lying beneath all the assumptions is a startling truth about its origin. Now indigenous missionaries have begun a counterattack using a biblical worldview—with astonishing results.

Lunch Breakout
Friday, March 6

12:00 PM – 12:50 PM

Room 141

STARS

Eddie Moody

First Aid for Children With Learning Problems

An estimated 5–8% of youth struggle with ADHD, and 5–15% have a specific learning disability. Parents of these children know the significant challenges such issues can pose. Supporting a child with learning difficulties requires ongoing parental involvement and advocacy. This workshop will equip parents with practical steps to secure appropriate services and interventions, as well as actionable strategies to support and enhance their child's learning experience.

Breakout 2

Friday, March 6

4:00 PM – 4:50 PM

Room 200

Family Ministry

Richard Ross

Forming Warm and Godly Dads: The Answer to Lethargic Sons and Anxious Daughters

A toxic culture has left boys paralyzed and girls drowning in mental and emotional issues. The newest research confirms Scripture: Dads are immensely important to the emotional health and spiritual future of children. This session will present concrete ways to raise up more warm and godly fathers.

Room 202

Discipleship

Derek Altom

The Secret to Growing in Christ

Engage with practical research on how daily Bible engagement is the key to spiritual growth. In this breakout you will walk away with tools to help engage with God's Word on a daily basis.

Room 203

Leadership

Brett Buckland

My Pleasure: The Dos and Don'ts of Leading and Keeping a Team

What makes Chick-fil-A's teams so consistent, committed, and customer-focused? It's more than just great chicken—it's a leadership culture rooted in values, service, and intentional development. Participants will gain insight into how to create a culture where team members feel valued, heard, and empowered—leading to lower turnover, stronger collaboration, and better results. Whether you're leading a team of two or 200, this session will give you practical tools and real-world strategies to implement immediately.

Adams Room**Special Topics****Arlene Pellicane****Raising Relational Kids in an AI World**

What happens to our homes and churches when talking with AI becomes normal or even preferred over talking with people? Discover the astounding capabilities of AI and learn what we must do now to raise children who value real, human relationships above technology. Get practical strategies to tame the tech in your home.

Room 141**STARS****Corey Gilbert****How We Win With Our Children on Gender & Sexuality**

As the Church we must stay ahead of the tactics used to indoctrinate, confuse, and sway our children, preteens, and teens into unbiblical living. How do we do that? We start young. We equip ourselves and our areas of ministry to lead well and intentionally. This session will help you discern what to say, how to say it, and at what age we ought to be addressing core issues. Come join me as we aim to protect and prepare our young people well for the difficulties they will face.

Room F**Discipleship****Rich Griffith****Helping Your Child Overcome Anxiety Through Spiritual Formation Practices**

Even within Christian circles, people are experiencing unprecedented levels of anxiety and loneliness for various reasons. In this seminar, we will not only examine the causes of these struggles but also explore how Spiritual Formation practices—guided by Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) principles—can serve as effective countermeasures.

Room G**Family Ministry****Matt Hanson****The Christian Rite of Passage Movement – The Answer to Stopping the Exodus of Kids and Engaging Parents in Their Spiritual Formation**

The Church has rites for birth, marriage, and death—but nothing for the transition into adulthood. That absence is discipling our children more than we realize.

Room H**Parenting****Shelly Melia****Connecting With NextGen Parents**

Who are the parents of the preschoolers, children, and students in your ministries? This breakout session will focus on understanding the mindset of parents of the next generation so that you can connect with them and leverage their influence in your ministries.

Room J

Student Ministry

Jon Forrest

These Kids Didn't Even Plant Their Own Olive Trees

A look at a warning from Deuteronomy 6 that is so relevant it could have been written last week.

Room K-1

Special Topics

Tommy Swindol

Building a Church Planting Pipeline That Works

What if your first—or next—church plant is already sitting in your pews? Discover how *any* church—big or small—can identify, develop, and deploy future planters and teams through a simple, repeatable pipeline. Learn how to turn disciples of Jesus into gospel pioneers who carry Great Commission DNA into new communities.

Room K-2

Volunteers

Doc Hunsley

Volunteers: The Lifeblood of Your Ministry

Volunteers are the lifeblood of every ministry—especially special needs! Volunteer recruitment is always one of the biggest concerns for any ministry leader, regardless of the size of your ministry. In this breakout, you will learn how to recruit, retain, and train your volunteers to last for the long haul in any-sized church. You will leave with the four most important letters in the alphabet for volunteer recruitment and how they will help you recruit volunteers at over a 90% success rate with longevity.

Room L

Discipleship

Leon Blanchette

Better Together: Faith for a Lifetime

If you believe that passing down Christian faith is essential for the next generation, you are in the right place. The Center for Faith & Family at Olivet Nazarene University is committed to coming alongside parents, caregivers, coaches, teachers, pastors, and more to pass on faith to the next generation. Join us as we share 10 researched practices for equipping the church and parents to pass down faith for a lifetime. When building faith, we are better together!

Room M

Children's Ministry

Byron Ragains

Why Is It Critical to Keep the Gospel at the Center of Our Ministry?

What defines your children's ministry? What words would you use to describe *why* your ministry exists? Let's get to the bottom of this by elevating the gospel to the rightful place: the center. We'll explore four thoughts that could help your volunteers leverage creativity to amplify the gospel story in every lesson.

Breakout 3

Saturday, March 7

9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Room 200

Discipleship

Erica Renaud

Pray With Me: Help Your Children Engage in Authentic and Powerful Prayer

Join Erica Renaud, author, mother of five, and ministry leader, for an engaging session on helping kids build a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer. With humor, relatable stories, and practical tips, Erica will equip you to make prayer transformative in your home or ministry. Walk away with creative, ready-to-use ideas to inspire authentic, lasting faith in the next generation.

Room 202

Children's Ministry

Carol Reid

Did You Say a Teaching Nursery?

Yes! The babies and toddlers in your church can learn and will love learning about God and His Word. Nursery ministry is far more than babysitting. We'll explore opportunities to intentionally teach the youngest attendees at your church and build relationships with their parents.

Room 203

Special Topics

Kayla Fowler

What the Tech Happened?

Kids are growing up in a culture that looks very different from the one many of us experienced. As ministry leaders, we must ask: *What do kids truly need to thrive—and what influences might be holding them back?* Explore the cultural forces shaping kids and families, identify barriers to spiritual formation, and discuss practical ways the church can create environments that foster growth. We'll consider what we're competing with in today's culture and why it matters. Leave with actionable strategies and tools to help kids, students, and families flourish in their faith journey.

Adams Room

Family Ministry

Sharon Stratmoen

It Takes a Village: Intergenerational Fun for the Whole Church Family

God's family includes people of all ages and stages of life—and so does your church family!

Come dream with us as we envision four formats for all-church family ministry, including holiday services, outreach initiatives, easy events, and VBS. Prepare to be inspired by fresh ideas and activated with practical plans to try right away!

Room 141**STARS****Diane Lytle****Circle of Security and TBRI**

This breakout covers foundational attachment theory and provides practical tools to help leaders and teachers connect with all students—even the most challenging ones.

Room F**Leadership****JJ Jones****Sabbath for the Rest of Us: Practicing Sabbath When You Work on Sunday**

How can church staff and pastors—those of us who call Sunday a workday—practice Sabbath? This breakout session will encourage ministry leaders to cultivate rhythms of rest and renewal, offering practical ideas for alternative Sabbath practices that equip, renew, and sustain us for effective ministry on Sundays and beyond.

Room G**Parenting / Grandparenting****Larry Fowler****The Six Marks of an Influential Life**

Learn life characteristics that must mark grandparents and parents who desire to leave a spiritual impact in the future generations in their family. Larry's personal stories, practical tips, and passion will leave you inspired, motivated, and equipped to "up your game" in influencing your family.

Room H**Volunteers****Joy Wendling****Forming Hearts Through Play: Soul Care for Volunteers**

Volunteer burnout doesn't have to be inevitable. Discover how play can transform your volunteer care strategy and create a thriving ministry team. Learn practical, budget-friendly ways to incorporate playful elements into volunteer gatherings and ongoing care initiatives. We'll explore research-backed benefits of play for adult stress relief and team building, then practice hands-on activities you can immediately implement. You'll gain creative tools to foster genuine community, reduce ministry fatigue, and help your team rediscover the joy that drew them to serve.

Room J**Parenting****Linc Taylor****Five Misleading Measurements of Successful Parenting**

How do we really know we are excelling or prospering as parents? Are we utilizing the correct indicators of successful parenting to know we are on the right track? In this session, we will unpack five common snares that many parents can be susceptible to, the possible causes, and what Scripture has to say about God's design that gives clarity to our measurements.

Room K-1**Discipleship****Chris Shirley****The Disciple Making Mentor**

Mentors are the key to intergenerational discipleship in the church. Gen Z and Gen Alpha are crying out for older men and women to walk with them and provide wisdom for the journey. In this session, we will explore the challenge of providing mentors for making disciples in the church and suggest the ways and means of establishing a mentoring ministry.

Room K-2**Discipleship****Chris Closser****My Dentist Remembered My Birthday...My Church Didn't**

If a dentist can automate care, why can't the church? Discipleship isn't built in sermons alone; it's built in small, consistent moments that say, *you matter*. A birthday text. A midweek check-in. A follow-up prayer. This session will show you how simple automations create genuine connection without burnout, helping your church notice what truly counts. Because when people feel seen, they stay, and that's discipleship in motion.

Room L**Parenting****Eric Davis****Generation to Generation: Discovering the Gift of Spiritual Legacy**

Parenting is hard! It's filled with decisions, pressures, and moments that can feel overwhelming. In the rush of daily life, it's easy to slip into survival mode, reacting rather than leading with purpose. This session will help you step back and refocus on what shapes your family's spiritual legacy. Together, we'll unpack practical ways to parent or grandparent with clarity, confidence, and a vision grounded in faith. Walk away equipped to lead your family with clear purpose, wisdom, and conviction that will echo through generations.

Room M**Children's Ministry****Jennifer Barnett****Equipping Children to Walk With Jesus**

Jennifer Barnett introduces her new booklet, *Walking With Jesus*, and shares practical tools for teaching kids about salvation and walking with Christ. Discover simple ways to help children engage with God's Word at church and at home.

Lunch Breakout**Friday, March 6****12:00 PM – 12:50 PM****Room 141****STARS****Corey Gilbert**

How to Recognize Signs and Provide Support to Hurting Children

Learn how to be trauma-informed without making trauma a central identity for those you serve. Understand trauma, its impact, and how our brains can be rewired, as well as strategies to help find hope and a new story. Gain skills to empower kids and teens to rise above hurt and brokenness. Join Dr. Gilbert and leave feeling more hopeful and confident in serving those who are hurting.

Breakout 4

Saturday, March 7
1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Room 200

Family Ministry

Lissy Bailey

Helping Kids and Teens Thrive at Home

Family ministry is often one-sided—focused on turning the hearts of parents to kids but not the reverse. Does your ministry have a plan to help kids build strong relationships with their parents and siblings? Every child is navigating challenges at home and you can help. Discover key biblical principles and practical approaches to help the next generation thrive in their present and future families.

Room 202

Discipleship

Ron Hunter

When Curriculum Becomes a Crutch Instead of a Coach

Curriculum was never meant to carry discipleship on its own. When churches rely on content without backward planning, alignment, and mentoring, faith becomes fragile. This session reframes curriculum as an unseen coach—quietly training teachers, shaping convictions before pressure comes, and creating shared language that fuels faith conversations across every age. If your ministry feels busy but brittle, this breakout will reset how you think about curriculum and formation.

Room 203

Children's Ministry

Jana Magruder

Wearing (and Sharing) All the Hats of Kids Ministry

Children's ministry leaders often find themselves wearing every hat—volunteer coordinator and trainer, content developer and presenter, event planner, tech supporter, and more. This session explores the multi-faceted nature of the role and helps leaders identify their strengths and favorite hats to wear while also walking away with practical strategies for managing their weaknesses, including how to delegate, collaborate, and build a support system that allows them to lead with confidence, clarity, and joy.

Adams Room**Parenting****Arlene Pellicane****Bringing Back Fun in Family**

Home is meant to be the place where you experience your happiest memories. But many families are living in conflict, disconnected from each other, and too busy for bonding. Could concentrating on having fun together become a pivot point toward closeness? Fun may sound frivolous and unconnected to discipleship, but discover how fun can turn the heart of our kids toward Christ.

Room 141**STARS****Eddie Moody****Avoiding Burnout: How to Stay Healthy in an Unhealthy World**

It is difficult to stay healthy as we serve in an unhealthy world. Loneliness, burnout, discouragement, and anxiety can become our enemies. However, by intentionally focusing on our emotional, physical, and spiritual health, we can thrive in an unhealthy world.

Room F**Student Ministry****Jon Forrest****I Wish I Hadn't Asked**

A look at a questionnaire given to two groups of students 10 years apart and what it taught me about ministry.

Room G**Parenting****Lori Wildenberg****Bootcamp for Parents of Soon-to-be Teens**

Suddenly your child ages into double digits. They may experience cyber bullying, sexting, porn, anxiety, or depression. Children are overexposed and parents are often underprepared. This confusing time of transition calls for a parenting shift. Problematic strategies will be defined and helpful approaches examined. Discover how to talk with your kids about difficult topics and then how to empower them to move into problem solving mode.

Room H**Discipleship****Kevin Jones****Down to Character: Cultivating Christlike Formation in the Family**

Grounded in 2 Peter 1:1–15, this session calls Christian families and ministry leaders to the foundation of discipleship—character. In a culture chasing image over integrity, we'll explore how humility, faithfulness, and virtue are formed through Christ's example and nurtured within the home. Discover how Spirit-led families become living testimonies of godly transformation and can be useful and effective in a world of compromise.

Room K-1

Volunteers

Elaine Pendergrass

The Volunteer Onramp: Moving Grown-Ups from Seat to Service

A thriving children's ministry requires a team of confident, caring volunteers who understand their roles and are able to serve children well. This session will give you practical strategies for recruiting and training volunteers, leading with confidence and compassion, and creating simple onramps for church members to serve in your ministry. Discover how to help your congregation put their faith into action while building a ministry where kids experience the love of Christ week after week.

Room L

Special Topics

Tim Anderson

Dealing With Trauma

This seminar delves into personal and family trauma and its effects theologically and psychologically. Developing disciples and healthy families must understand and manage trauma for reaching God's best and helping others.

Room M

Leadership

Frank Trimble

Too Many Cooks: Leading Teams When Everyone Has an Option

Leading a ministry team can feel like herding cats—especially when volunteers have a “better” idea and student leaders think they know the perfect solution. While it’s tempting to make decisions solo, effective leadership means learning to harness the collective wisdom of opinionated people without losing your sanity or vision. In this session, we’ll explore how to lead with conviction while genuinely listening to dissenting voices. Walk away with practical strategies for managing difficult volunteers, redirecting strong personalities, and turning creative tension into real collaboration.