

***Main Stage order is subject to change.**

Erica Renaud

General Session 1 - 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Thursday

Erica Renaud is a powerful speaker, passionate writer, and founder of two ongoing prayer initiatives. She speaks at various events and conferences throughout the Northeast, and serves as the K–12 art teacher at her local Christian school. As a mom of five, her home is rarely short on mess, schoolwork, and laughter. Her first book, *Pray with Me: Help Your Children Engage in Authentic and Powerful Prayer* was published in 2023.

Seeing with Perspective – Do you ever sense that God is up to something you can't quite see? Do you feel like you're catching only part of the picture? Sometimes what's right in front of us can actually keep us from noticing what God is trying to reveal and recognizing the work He's already doing. Erica shares from her personal testimony and key moments in Scripture to help open our eyes to see more clearly, to notice God's movement, His invitations, and His presence in our everyday lives.

Carol Reid

General Session 1 - 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Thursday

Carol Reid has always been involved in Christian education. She served almost thirty years as the librarian at Welch College and continued her ministry as an editor at D6 Family Ministry. Though officially retired, she continues to do freelance work for D6, teach in the toddler nursery at The Donelson Fellowship, and help care for her fifth grandchild, Samuel.

Spiritual Conversations: The Desert or the Promised Land – What if the greatest gift you could give your family isn't more time, stuff, or protection, but a deeper love for God? Join us as we explore why the difference between a struggling "desert" home and a thriving "Promised Land" home often comes down to one choice: Who comes first? Be encouraged, challenged, and equipped to lead your family into God's best.

Tommy Swindol

General Session 1 - 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Thursday

Tommy Swindol is a husband, father, and pastor who is passionate about relational disciple-making, church planting, and hiking the ancient paths of the Bible.

Spiritual Conversations: The Desert or the Promised Land – What if the greatest gift you could give your family isn't more time, stuff, or protection, but a deeper love for God? Join us as we explore why the difference between a struggling "desert" home and a thriving "Promised Land" home often comes down to one choice: Who comes first? Be encouraged, challenged, and equipped to lead your family into God's best.

Jay Strother

General Session 2 – 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM – Friday

Jay Strother, M.Div., D.Ed. Min., is the senior pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church in Tennessee. He holds degrees from Greenville University, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also serves as an adjunct professor of leadership and discipleship. Jay and his wife have five children and are passionate about foster

care and adoption. He enjoys good books, long hikes, strong coffee, and St. Louis Cardinals baseball.

Non-Negotiables of Family Ministry in the Local Church – Jay Strother is the Senior Pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church, our host church this year. Jay spoke at the very first D6 Conference in Dallas in 2009 and has "seen it all" as part of this movement. Jay has helped to create a family-equipping culture over the past 20 years as a Student Minister, Next Gen Minister, Campus Pastor, and now as the Senior Pastor. At each level of leadership important lessons have been learned to clarify what really matters in Family Ministry in the local church and what doesn't, no matter the size or demographic of the congregation.

Larry Fowler

General Session 2 - 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM – Friday

Larry Fowler has served in various capacities as youth pastor, missionary, international trainer, and senior executive with Awana for over 50 years. In 2016, he launched the Legacy Coalition. Today, his team of over 100 staff and volunteers supports more than 2,500 churches to help equip grandparents through seminars, webinars, podcasts, resources, and the Legacy Grandparenting Summit.

Reimagining Church as Family Panel – When you hear “family,” what comes to mind? Is it an idyllic Norman Rockwell setting—mom, dad, two kids, and a dog? For many, that image feels out of reach. Families today are diverse, complex, and often broken. Single parents juggle immense challenges. Adoptive families redefine belonging. Spiritual orphans long for connection. Empty nesters navigate shifting roles and grandparents step in to parent. How do we respond to these realities, and what does Scripture say about what family truly is? *Reimagining Church as Family* dives into the theological foundations of family, showing how God’s design is broader, deeper, and more comprehensive than we often imagine.

JJ Jones

General Session 2 - 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM – Friday

JJ Jones, D.Min., M.Div., serves as pastor of groups at Fellowship Bible Church in Brentwood, Tennessee, and an adjunct professor at Toccoa Falls College. He has nearly 40 years in ministry and co-authored the book *Reimagining Church as Family*. He is passionate about equipping others to cultivate legacies of faith. He and his wife Anna live in Franklin, Tennessee, and have two children and two grandchildren.

Rich Griffith

General Session 2 - 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM – Friday

Rich Griffith, D.Min., is Associate Professor of Youth Ministry and Ministry Leadership at Toccoa Falls College in Northeast Georgia. He holds two master’s degrees in Theology and Organizational Leadership and a doctorate in Youth, Family, and Culture. Rich is the author of *Voices: Helping Our Children and Youth Listen to Wise Counsel* (2023), *Discipleship Is Leadership* (2024), and editor of *Reimagining Church as Family* (2025). He is also dad to three sons.

Kevin Jones**General Session 2 - 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM – Friday**

Kevin M. Jones Sr., Ed.D., is dean of the School of Education and Social Work at Cedarville University and a pastor at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Springfield, Ohio. He and his wife have been married for 21 years and have three teenage children. His publications include *Down to Character*, *The Armor of God Kids Bible*, *Jesse Owens: A Life in American History*, and the second edition of *Perspectives on Family Ministry*.

Shelly Melia**General Session 2 - 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM – Friday**

Shelly Melia, Ph.D., is Professor of Childhood Education at Dallas Baptist University where she serves as the associate dean of the Graduate School of Ministry. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor with a special research interest in grief and resilience. Prior to her time at DBU she served as a children's and family minister for over 25 years in Oklahoma, Florida, and Texas churches.

Brian Dembowczyk**General Session 3 – 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM – Friday**

Brian Dembowczyk, Ph.D., is the associate publisher at Thomas Nelson Bibles. He previously served as managing editor of The Gospel Project and in full-time ministry. He is the author of *Faith Foundations* (IVP), *Family Discipleship that Works* (IVP), and *Gospel Centered Kids Ministry* (B&H).

Missing the Mark: The Forgotten “What” of Family Discipleship – Families have struggled to disciple in the home for generations—not because they lack the why or the how, but because they've often forgotten the most important part: the non-negotiable goal of family discipleship. What are parents really trying to accomplish in the home? During our time together, we'll uncover the one essential focus that can change everything. Having the right goal in mind won't guarantee victory in the home—but lacking it may guarantee that, no matter what else we do, victory will remain elusive.

Ron Hunter**General Session 3 - 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM – Friday**

Ron Hunter dedicates his life to focusing on discipleship, family ministry, and leadership. He serves as CEO of D6 Family Ministry and publisher of the D6 Curriculum, and founder of D6 and the D6 Family Ministry model. Ron provides global leadership for D6 Conferences, coaching, and aligning conferences and churches worldwide for clarity, strategy, and long-term impact. Dr. Hunter teaches graduate students in discipleship and leadership. He enjoys iced coffee, writing, and mentoring college students, while his favorite titles remain husband, father, and granddaddy.

Backward Discipleship in a Forward World – Backward Discipleship in a Forward World challenges leaders and parents to disciple others, especially children, in a culture that

rushes them forward before they are spiritually prepared. Most people already think backward when planning careers, finances, or travel, yet few apply that same intentionality to a child's faith and lifelong walk with Christ. Ron highlights the Faith-Forging Five—Bible Engagement, Faith at Home, Mentors Matter, Sharing One's Faith, and Volunteering at Church—as a clear framework for forming resilient disciples. Backward discipleship helps families and churches shape faith early so children are ready for what lies ahead.

Lori Wildenberg

General Session 3 - 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM – Friday

Lori Wildenberg is passionate about helping families build connections that last a lifetime. She is a licensed parent-family educator, national speaker, and award-winning author of seven family life books. She writes for several online magazines including: *Focus on the Family*, *Mom Life Today*, and *Crosswalk.com*. She is mom to four adult children, mom-in-love to three, and Mimi to five. A perfect day in Lori's world is a hike with Tom, her hubby, any combination of additional family members, and of course Toby the family goldendoodle.

Grandparents Make Grand Partners – Discover how to be the grandparent God has called you to be. Avoid common grandparenting pitfalls and embrace the parent to grandparent shift. You can be the grandparent your grandkids need and your adult children hope for.

Matt Hanson

General Session 4 – 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Friday

Matt Hanson is the executive director of the National Rite of Passage Council and catalyst for the Aion Path, a Christian rite of passage journey for fathers and their 12 to 14-year-olds. He lives in Long Beach, California, with his wife Kirsten. They have three grown children.

The Rabbi in the Next Village – Eight hundred years ago, one rabbi's idea to make a child's passage into adulthood more meaningful sparked a movement that has shaped a culture ever since. You are standing at that same moment — and the decision you make today about how your church engages dads and middle schoolers could reverberate through families and faith for generations.

Lissy Bailey

General Session 4 - 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Friday

Lissy (Rienow) Bailey's foremost ministry is loving her husband and raising their three children to follow Jesus. She is passionate about helping teens live for Christ in their families and equipping parents to build heart-connected relationships with their kids. She is the author of *The Heart of Your Teen* and *Living For Christ at Home*.

The Heart of Your Teen – Do you want the teens in your church to catch a vision for home discipleship? A central ingredient of family ministry is calling parents to turn their hearts to their children and embrace the mission to help their kids follow Jesus. But we also need to be helping kids and teens turn their hearts to their parents. Home discipleship is more difficult and more important than ever during the teen years.