KTA+ INSTITUTE

For churches
November 2026

A FREE RESOURCE FROM KTA+ INSTITUTE

Church Learning Program Starter Guide

A practical guide for churches starting a Christian microschool, homeschool co-op or learning program.

1 Why a church learning program
2 Choose your model
3 Setting up
4 Your lead educator
5 Curriculum and approach
6 A 90-day launch plan
7 Next steps

"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6 (NASB)

Free to use and share with attribution · ktaplusinstitute.org

1 · WHY NOW

Why a church learning program, and why now

Your church already has what most new schools spend years trying to build: **space, trust, and a community that shares a biblical worldview.**

More Christian families are choosing homeschooling and microschools every year. Many of them are looking for one thing they can't easily find on their own: a place where their children learn alongside others, taught from a biblical worldview, by people they trust.

Every education disciples.

No classroom is neutral. The question is never *whether* children are being discipled through their learning, but *who* is discipling them and towards what.

That makes learning a ministry question, not only an education question. A church learning program lets you:

Serve families all week
in your congregation and community, not only on Sunday

Disciple through every subject
not just Bible lessons

Reach new families
who are looking for a faith-filled alternative

Use your buildings
put them to use on weekdays

This guide walks you through the decisions that matter most, in the order you'll need to make them.

2 · THE FIRST DECISION

Choose your model

Most churches start with one of three models. Pick the one that fits your families, your space and your volunteers. You can grow into another later.

Model	What it looks like	Good fit when	Main commitment
Homeschool co-op	Families meet one or two days a week for shared classes; parents stay involved and often help teach	You have engaged homeschool families who want community	Parent volunteers and a coordinator
Microschool	A small group (often 8–15 learners) meets most weekdays with a lead educator	Families need regular, structured learning outside the home	A lead educator and a weekly timetable
Enrichment program	After-school or holiday sessions that add to what families already do	You want to start small or serve mainstream-school families too	A few hours a week and a clear focus

Questions to answer before you choose

1. How many families have told you they're interested, and what ages are their children?
2. Which days and rooms are actually free during the week?
3. Who in your church could lead, and who could help?
4. Is this a ministry of the church, or a group the church hosts?

The last question matters. It shapes who is responsible, how insurance works and who makes decisions. Decide it early and put it in writing.

3 · BEFORE DAY ONE

Setting up

Get these right before the first family walks through the door. Tick them off as you go.

Space

- [ ] A room or two that can be set up and packed down easily, with tables, a screen and reliable Wi-Fi
- [ ] Safe access, bathrooms nearby, and a clear sign-in and pick-up point
- [ ] Agreement with other ministries on which rooms are yours on which days

Child safety

- [ ] A written child safety policy that every adult reads and signs
- [ ] Background checks for every adult who will work with children (see the companion *Educator Screening Checklist for Churches*)
- [ ] Clear adult-to-child ratios. KTA+ partner programs need at least one trained helper for every 8 students
- [ ] A plan for first aid, medical information, emergencies and incident reporting

Insurance and legal

- [ ] Talk to your church's insurer before you start. Ask whether weekday educational programs are covered, or need extra cover
- [ ] Check your local homeschool and education laws. Rules differ between US states, and between Australian states and territories
- [ ] Decide whether families enrol with the church, the program or a partner, and use a simple written agreement

Schedule

- [ ] Set term dates, weekly days and session times
- [ ] Leave time for set-up, pack-down and a short weekly check-in with your team

This guide isn't legal advice. Check local requirements with your denomination, insurer or a lawyer.

4 · PEOPLE FIRST

Your lead educator: the most important decision

Curriculum matters. Space matters. But the person leading your learners will shape them more than anything else.

> "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."
>
> Luke 6:40 (NASB)

Children become like the people who teach them. So the most important question isn't "Do they know the content?" It's "Who are they, and how do they respond when a child is in front of them?"

Look for someone who

- shares your church's biblical worldview and can explain it plainly
- sees teaching as discipleship, not just passing on information
- responds to children with grace and truth, especially when things go wrong
- works well with parents as partners
- is safe: fully checked, referenced and accountable

Don't rule people out for lacking a teaching degree

Some of the best educators outside the system are former teachers, but many are homeschool parents, youth leaders or professionals with real knowledge to share.

What matters is character, worldview and the ability to disciple through learning.

How KTA+ Institute helps

KTA+ Institute trains educators who teach outside the system in a biblical worldview and a method for teaching that disciples. Educators who complete the pathway can become **Verified**, a status your church and families can look up, renewed every year. You can:

- **Look for a Verified educator** to lead your program, once the first educators are Verified (the Founding Cohort launches in 2027)
- **Encourage someone in your church to apply.** The Founding Cohort is free and applications are open now: ktaplusinstitute.org/apply
- **Start with the free Formation Finder** to help your leaders reflect on their own approach: ktaplusinstitute.org/formation-finder

5 · WHAT YOU'LL TEACH

Curriculum and approach: partnering with KTA+

You don't have to write a curriculum from scratch. Churches in the US and Australia can partner with KTA+ to run **Kingdom Thinkers Academy**: faith-integrated, project-based learning built on a biblical worldview. *Big Picture Learning.*

What the learning looks like

Five big-picture themes
each answering what the culture says with what God's Word says

The Kingdom Inquiry Cycle
Wonder, Seek, Discover, Connect, Share, Grow

Real projects
that serve others, not just worksheets that get marked

Responsive Discipleship Learning™
educators trained in a way of responding to each learner that disciples

How a church partnership works

- Learners in your space join live sessions together. Students with a laptop log in to the live call, and the call is shown on a screen in the room for everyone else
- Kale can attend in person within a set distance; further away is arranged by distance
- At least one trained helper for every 8 students
- Your church gets its own private online space under the KTA+ banner for learning and family communication
- The partnership is a licence based on the number of students, shaped around your church

Pricing is confirmed after a consultation with your church, so it fits your size and setup. More at kingdomthinkersacademy.org/churches

6 · FROM IDEA TO FIRST SESSION

A 90-day launch plan

This plan takes a church from first conversation to first session in about three months.

DAYS 1–30
Decide and prepare

- [ ] Agree with church leadership that this is a ministry you want to pursue, and who owns it
- [ ] Gather interest: a short announcement and a simple interest form for families
- [ ] Choose your model (co-op, microschool or enrichment) and your days
- [ ] Talk to your insurer and check local education rules
- [ ] Book a consultation with KTA+ to plan the learning and the partnership

DAYS 31–60
People and policies

- [ ] Choose your lead educator and helpers, and run every step of the screening checklist
- [ ] Write or update your child safety policy and train every adult on it
- [ ] Set up the room, screen and Wi-Fi, and test a live session
- [ ] Hold an information night for families and open enrolments

DAYS 61–90
Launch

- [ ] Confirm enrolments and collect medical and contact details
- [ ] Run a practice session with your team
- [ ] Hold your first session, then meet as a team the same week to review it
- [ ] Ask two or three families for honest feedback after the first month

7 · WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Next steps

1. Share this guide with your pastor and church leadership.
2. Use the companion **Educator Screening Checklist for Churches** before you choose anyone to lead.
3. Book a consultation about a KTA+ church partnership: kingdomthinkersacademy.org/churches
4. Invite your potential educators to take the free Formation Finder: ktaplusinstitute.org/formation-finder

About KTA+ Institute

KTA+ Institute offers biblical worldview development training for educators who think outside the system. It is run by The Transformation Network LLC.

Using this guide. Free to use, print and share in your church. Please credit KTA+ Institute and don't sell it or include it in a paid product without permission.

About the author

Kale Kneale is the Creator of KTA+ and Responsive Discipleship Learning™, and designer of the Kingdom Inquiry Cycle. He holds a Master of International Education and has worked in education for 15+ years, including 10 years in schools. He is CEO of The Transformation Network (Australia) and founder of The Transformation Network LLC in the US.

Faith, Family, & Future Learning