

Pop-up small groups leaders' information

Thank you so much for joining us. Our vision for pop-up small groups is that they build community and provide a safe place for people to listen, ask, discuss and find their next step... without much prep required from you. If you can provide coffee and community, we'll provide the content to get people talking!

We are not trying to give definitive answers or 'how-tos' in these evenings but have a thought-provoking discussion which gives people ideas and helps them to find their next step. **Our approach** is to recognise that every family is unique and that parents and carers are the experts in their own children. By using the **Key Tools**, every parent and carer can help their child connect with God as a normal part of everyday life.

Church plays a really important role in this, by being the supportive community that encourages and equips parents and carers along the way. We ask people to think about the next steps for their child or family rather than searching for a 'right answer'. You can support your group by using this language and approach too. This should help people feel able to share their thoughts and ideas, without fear of getting it 'wrong'.

Exploring these big issues in community is really helpful, as it allows people to share ideas and learn from each other before considering what they think. Pop-up small groups aim to be a safe space where that can happen. You can support people by setting a culture of journeying together and guiding people to listen well, love well and encourage each other.

In advance

- Decide how you want to gather people – this could be at church, in a home or homes, or getting individuals to watch on their own but arrange a video call for the discussion time.
- Spread the word so everyone knows they are welcome and when and where you are meeting. We have a shareable image with the details available on our social media and website that you can use in your own social media, emails, WhatsApp messages or your own website.
- You might also choose to print or send copies of the handout in advance.

On the night

- **7.30/7.45 pm** – If meeting in person, gather people for coffee and to catch up.
- **8.00 pm** – We will go live on the **Parenting for Faith Facebook page**. You'll see the video appear at the top of the page. If you don't, try refreshing the page and scrolling down. You can watch on a phone, a smart TV (click on Facebook) or link a laptop to a TV or projector. People may want to have the video playing on their phones (muted) so they can do this individually. The video will be available afterwards so you are welcome to run this event at a different time.
- **8.30 pm** – For this topic we won't be responding to questions publicly but you are welcome to send us any via email or private message. Encourage people to chat (in person or online) about what stood out to them, what they agreed or disagreed with and what the next step for their family might be. You can use the discussion questions on the handout to guide you.
- **9.00/9.30 pm** – Wrap up and go home. You might want to follow up with an email or text.

Talking to kids about gender and sexuality

with Rachel Turner, Parenting for Faith founder

Welcome to this Parenting for Faith pop-up! At Parenting for Faith, we believe that you, the parents and carers, are the best people to help your children and teens meet and know God. This evening, we'll be thinking about how to talk to our children and young people about gender and sexuality. Please remember that your family is unique and you are the expert in your own child(ren), so don't worry if your ideas and next steps are different to somebody else's. Listen to the discussion on [Facebook Live](#), add your comments and chat with God and the people that you're with to explore what the next steps for your family might be.

The Facebook Live discussion

We know that this is a big topic and that there is a whole range of different theological views. However, the aim of this evening isn't to tell people *what* to think about sexuality and gender, but to equip them to talk well to their children and young people about these important topics.

We're here to help each parent or carer find the right next step for their family so they can journey well as their children and young people navigate ideas about sexuality and gender in their context. We recognise that won't be the same for everyone. As with all other aspects of parenting for faith, each family is unique and we encourage parents and carers to find their next step in helping their children or teens to meet and know God.

Rachel will be looking at the following three points:

1. **Don't be afraid.** For many people, this whole topic can feel daunting and the responsibility of wading into it with your children and young people can feel scary. But scripture reminds us not to be afraid. Jesus said he wanted to bring us life to the full, and we are so much more than just our gender or sexuality. Parents and carers don't need to be experts in this but do need to go on the journey of becoming peaceful with the topic and oriented to it so they can accompany their children on this journey so they can flourish.
2. **Don't let the conversation centre on responding to the world's messages.** Our job is to help kids understand the beauty of the fullness of how they've been made and to understand how love, desire, sexuality and gender impact a lot of life. Parents and carers can give their kids context so they get a solid framework to be able to assess what others think and what they think.
3. **Help kids to see the bigger picture.** Sexuality and gender are only a small part of who they are – they are so much more. God gives them an identity and a purpose as he invites them to be a small part of his big plans. Gender and sexuality were never meant to be the main focus of who they are, and their view can become unbalanced if that becomes the centre of their world

Discussion question ideas

- What are the questions your kids are asking about gender and sexuality?
- What messages do you think they are hearing?
- Which ideas do you think you need to 'frame' for your child(ren) at the moment? How might you do that?
- How do you feel about journeying with your children as they navigate these big topics?
- What is one thing that you'll take away from this evening to try as a next step for your family?

Rachel mentioned

- [The Sex Thing](#) (SPCK, 2021) by Rachel Gardner