

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 to's in these evenings, but want to start 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 with 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 websites.
- 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** – We'll take questions and respond to them, and then stop the live broadcast. 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 decision-making

with Rachel Turner

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. We have **five Key Tools** to help you do this as a normal part of everyday life. This evening, we'll be applying some of these tools to how we talk to our children and young people about decision-making. Listen to the discussion on **Facebook Live** and add your comments and questions. Then explore your next steps by discussing this with the people around you.

The Facebook Live discussion

Decision-making is a huge part of life, even for babies and toddlers! Part of parenting is helping our children learn how to make all sorts of decisions, from how to choose a healthy snack to life-changing decisions about careers, relationships and education. For Christians, this includes learning what it is God wants us to do, and recognising how he guides us.

Rachel Turner, founder of Parenting for Faith, will be sharing some important ideas that will help us coach our children – of every age – in understanding how to make good decisions and what part God has to play in that. She'll be chatting to Anna about:

- **Making decisions in the little and the big.** The key tools of creating windows and framing can help us create a culture of decision-making in our families that will prepare children for the big decisions to come.
- **Recognising our foundational purpose.** When kids understand God's foundational purpose for them – his big plan that we should love him wholeheartedly and love our neighbours as ourselves – then they can be confident in who God has called them to be and so in their ability to make decisions with the help of the Holy Spirit. We can teach our children to operate out of those foundational principles as they make decisions.
- **Does God have a 'right path' for us?** Kids need to understand how God guides us and what that might look like. So often, it's simply 'follow me' and wait for the next step, living peacefully with the in-between parts.
- **Being comfortable correcting your course when you get it wrong.** We'll all make the wrong decision from time to time! You can help children learn how to process mistakes with God, understanding that he weaves all things together for good.

Further links

- **David and the decision** – some examples of how God has helped people make decisions.

Discussion question ideas

- What decisions are your kids facing right now, or you can see coming up for them? How could you help with these?
- How might understanding their 'foundational purpose' help your kids with their everyday decisions at home and at school?
- How has God been involved in decisions you've made? Are there stories you could share with your children?
- What practical steps might you like to try with your family?