

# 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.

# Helping kids engage with chat and catch

## with Becky Sedgwick

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 talking about how to help our kids discover and go deeper with chat and catch – conversational prayer. 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

**Chat and catch is all about developing a connected prayer life with God.** God isn't just there, waiting for us to pray. He is already chatting to us, through our feelings, the Bible, other people, our brains... in all sorts of ways! He wants us to share all of our hearts and lives with him. When we introduce our children to the key tool of chat and catch, we are showing them how to have a heart to heart connection with God that will support them for life.

Becky Sedgwick, part of the Parenting for Faith team, will be helping us think about how we can introduce kids to chat and catch and help them deepen their experience of connected prayer and giving us some ideas for working out your kid's next steps. She'll be chatting about:

- **How we can easily and naturally help kids learn what chat and catch is.** The key tool of creating windows. By deliberately giving kids glimpses of our prayer life with God, sharing stories about prayer and letting them see you pray – however you do that – you help them see what prayer is, how they could do it themselves and open their minds to new possibilities for them.
- **How to get kids started or help them go deeper with chat and catch.** We're all on a journey of learning to connect with God. There are simple ways to get them started. As they grow and change, how they chat and catch with God will too. They may have questions or misunderstandings on this journey, but we can help them with those as we encourage them to go deeper into a 1:1 relationship with God.
- **Working out your kid's next steps.** As you reflect on your kid, you can help them shape their chatting and catching, and create opportunities for them to connect with God and chat and catch in all sorts of situations.

## Further links

- [Sessions 4 and 5 of the Parenting for Faith course](#) introduce chat and catch and how to get your kid started.
- Ideas for helping [under-fives chat with God](#).
- [FAQs on chat and catch](#) for parents/carers of kids with additional needs.
- [Ideas for if a kid finds catching from God hard](#).
- Free download of [101 ways to start a conversation with God](#).
- [Tips on how to stop being the High Priest](#).
- The books [Parenting Teens for a Life of Faith](#) and [Babies and Toddlers](#) contain age-specific ideas and examples.

## Discussion question ideas

- What's your experience of prayer? How could you create glimpses into that for your kid to see?
- How does your kid pray? Do you think they have any misunderstandings about God or prayer that might be stopping them chatting and catching freely with God?
- What opportunities could you create for your kid to see prayer differently or try something new?
- What's your next step for your child?