

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 the Bible 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 engage with the bible and understand its significance**. 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

We know that the bible is so special! It's God's word for us, helping us understand who God is and how much he loves us. Engaging with the bible is key for us as Christians and we want to help our kids do it too. Today, Becky Sedgwick will be helping us think about how we can help kids of all ages access the bible well and give us some ideas for helping them become life-long bible readers. She'll be chatting about:

- **Helping kids access the bible well.** The bible isn't the easiest book to read or understand. But there are many different ways to access it, and we can help our kids find ones that help them get to know it and understand it in a way that works for them. We can also give them an overview of the whole bible and the different parts of the bible that help the individual stories and passages they read make sense.
- **Showing them that it's powerful and important.** We know that the bible's not just an ordinary book and we can help our kids realise that too as we create windows into and frame how the bible impacts us. We can also help them understand how God works today by pointing out how he was busy and active in the bible stories they read. And when we see what is happening in their lives we can link that to truths in the bible too.
- **Equipping them to dig deep into scripture.** It's important that our kids don't just read the words of the bible but learn to dig into them and even wrestle with the tough stuff. We can introduce them to different ways people read the bible, show them where to go to learn more, encourage them to dig deeper with open questions and teach them what to do with bits they don't understand, like or agree with.

Further links

- [Accessing God's word with reading difficulties](#) – ideas for kids of all ages
- [Telling the whole story](#) – a practical guide to helping kids of all ages understand the big story of the bible
- [How to choose a children's bible](#) – advice on how to pick the right children's bible for your child
- [Reading a bible story for under-fives](#) – how to engage under-fives with the bible
- [Framing using bible stories](#) – how to explain who God is and what he does using Bible stories
- [An advent devotional for families](#) – includes examples of questions that help us explore bible stories well

Discussion question ideas

- How do your kids access the bible? Are there any ideas from tonight you might want to try?
- How could you help your kids see why the bible is important and powerful – why it's not just another book?
- Was there anything from tonight that is new for you? Are there any ideas from tonight you might want to try?
- What's your next step for your child?