

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 Halloween

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 talking about **how to help our kids engage well with Halloween as well as thinking about how to decide what is right for our own families**. 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

Halloween – it's a big topic! Many of us have big questions: what do we think about Halloween? What do we let our children do? Do we ignore it or engage with it? As our children grow older, we may feel we need to change what we do. Today, Rachel Turner, founder of Parenting for Faith, will be helping us think this through. She'll be chatting about:

- **How to proactively decide what you think and why.** Christians have always had to work out tricky decisions about how to live in the world. This isn't always easy. You may want to explore the different ways other Christians approach Halloween, chat with other parents and carers or seek advice. And do chat to God too.
- **Working out what God is saying to your family.** Every family is different and how you choose to respond to Halloween will be unique to your family and situation. What you do will be affected by where you live, what is happening around you, the ages of your children and their personalities. You may find that things change over time.
- **Helping your kids engage well – whatever you decide.** Take the time to explain your decisions well to your kids, so that they understand the 'whys' and what you felt God was saying. Then prepare them to engage well with the season, whether how to respond to trick-or-treaters, what to do if they are invited to a Halloween party or how to talk about Jesus as the light of the world.

Further links

- [How do we decide what we think about Halloween](#) – a framework for working out what's right for you
- [How we approach Halloween as a family](#) – a dad's story of how and why his family has changed what they do
- [Our family's fit at Halloween](#) – a mum explains how her family used their passions and giftings at Halloween
- [Dealing with the world's view of the supernatural](#) – how to talk about the supernatural with kids of all ages
- [Talking to kids about the devil](#) – some ideas to help you talk about the devil in your family
- [Exploring ways to respond to trick-or-treaters](#) – some ideas from Christian organisations

Discussion question ideas

- What does your family do at Halloween? How have you arrived at that decision?
- Have you ever changed your views of Halloween? Why?
- Are there any ideas from tonight you might want to try?
- What's your next step for your family?