

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 mission

with Rachel Turner, founder of Parenting for Faith

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 what mission is and what that might look like for them. 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

Mission is something that is important to Christians and which we are all called to be part of. Today Rachel Turner, the founder of Parenting for Faith, will be helping us think about how we can help kids of all ages understand what mission is and get excited about it. She'll also give us some ideas of ways to work out your kid's next steps. She'll be chatting about:

- **Exposing them to the fruit first.** When we're thinking about 'mission' we can often jump to activity. But there's an important first step. If we can help kids understand the beauty of lives transformed by God, as we frame it with stories, they will understand the 'why' of mission, and it will stop sounding like just something to do.
- **Help them understand what 'mission' is.** Words like 'mission' and 'evangelism' come with all sorts of baggage and different people have different ideas about what they are. As we create windows into our own experience of mission, we can help them understand that mission is simply an ordinary part of an ordinary walk with God as we share his love as we partner with him in transforming the world.
- **Knowing the difference between passion and giftings.** As you start exploring what your kid's next step might be in mission, begin with their passions: observe what gets them angry or excited; ask questions that help you spot their passions; suggest they chat to God about it. Their next step in mission may be something they do on their own, something you do as a family or something they join in with. And then you can facilitate that, knowing that as kids grow, their interests may ebb and flow, and that's okay.

Further links

- [Families break out: growing kids' passion for mission and evangelism](#) – a seminar Rachel gave at New Wine.
- [Journeying with Jesus 7](#) – thinking about why and how God equips us to join in with his mission in the world.
- [Joining in with what God is doing](#) – a podcast episode with Jade Farmer from Tearfund.

Discussion question ideas

- What do you think your kid thinks mission is? Do they need you to broaden their vision or unwind any wrong ideas?
- What is your experience of mission? How could you share that with your kid?
- What is your kid they passionate about? What opportunities could you create for your kid to get involved in mission?
- What's your next step for your child?