



FOUR IDEAS FOR ENSURING EVERY CHILD HAS A CHANCE TO CHOOSE JESUS

PRAY - SCHOOL - TRANSITIONS - HOME

TRAINING
MORNING
JUNE 2024



WELCOME

Welcome to Four Ideas to Ensure Every Child has a Chance to Choose Jesus, part of our Evangelism: How to Make it a Whole Church Ministry series. We hope you enjoy our morning together as we explore evangelism in our contemporary context. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help the morning work for you.

Overview of the Session

Four observations	3
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SUGGESTIONS FOR GOOD ZOOM ENGAGEMENT

- **Please participate, don't just observe** Pop things in Chat, ask questions (use virtual hand or just dive in with a question), contribute your best insights.
- **Set aside distractions** Close down other programmes, resist the temptations of your phone/tablet, put out of reach other reading material.
- **Keep your video on throughout** It will help you be fully present, and will help others engage with you. A blank screen is rather dispiriting.
- **Don't mute your sound** It helps with the flow of interaction, and an occasional background noise actually makes it feel less artificial. However, if there is a lot of noise in your room, or you are meeting as a group in one place, please do mute.
- **Combat Zoom fatigue** Two things will help combat weariness. Hide your self view (right click on your own image and select hide self view) and take regular stretch breaks (every 20 minutes or so stand up, stretch, take a few deep breaths).
- **Be patient** At some point something will go wrong. Please be patient with us as we try to sort it out.

GUIDELINES FOR GOOD INTERACTION

- **Learning together** We are all here to learn from God and one another. **Adopt a learning posture.**
- **Participate** Share your thoughts, insights and questions. Listen carefully to what others say. **Have an enquiring mind.** You'll get the most out of it if you do.
- **Confidentiality** What is said in the room cannot be shared outside the room attributed to anyone in the room. That makes it a safe place for us to be honest and share more deeply. **Choose honesty and openness.**
- **Reality check** It is always easy to become disconnected from reality in a training session, so please keep us connected with reality by taking us back to how things really are in your context. **Keep grounded.**
- **Next step** We will cover a lot of ground, but throughout our time together **be attentive** to what might be your next step following this morning's session. We will give you a chance to identify that at the end of the morning.

LEARNING TOOLS

We're using a Padlet Board this morning, as well as some of the features in Zoom. It works best if you identify one person in your group to act as 'Padlet monitor'. They will post on behalf of the group. They are fairly simple tools, but don't hesitate to ask if anything is unclear. Take look at a short (3 minute) introductory [video](#).

Throughout this handout there are hyperlinks to various materials. They appear in [blue](#) and [underlined](#).

TIMINGS

9.15	Welcome and Session 1
10.10	Break
10.20	Session 2
11.25	End

Timings are for guidance only, apart from the end time. We will finish by 11.15.

LEAD ON

Sign up today for a free monthly email with articles, resource recommendations and reviews for all interested in improving their leadership. Either scan the QR code below or sign up at www.cpas.org.uk/leadon.



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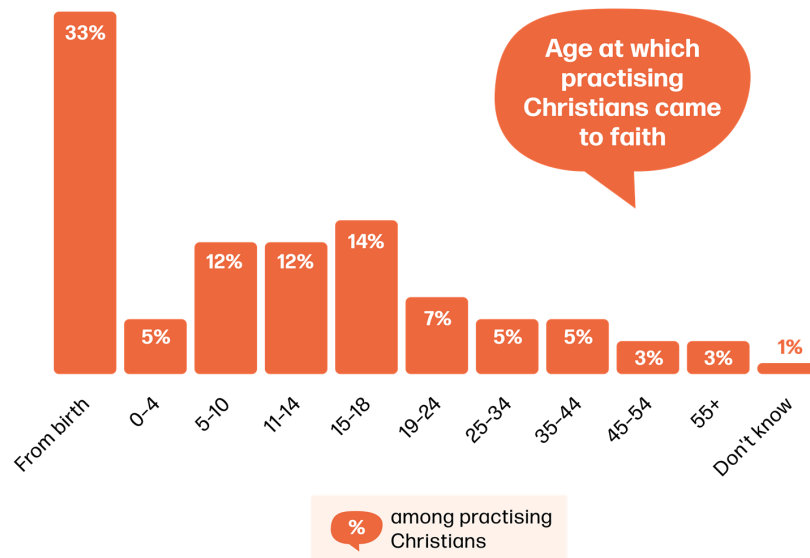
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FOUR OBSERVATIONS

1. MOST ADULT CHRISTIANS HAVE COME TO FAITH AS A CHILD



Source [Talking Jesus](#) research 2022.

2. MOST CHILDREN ARE GROWING UP OUTSIDE A CHRISTIAN FAITH CONTEXT

Mission map of England (see pages 5-6).

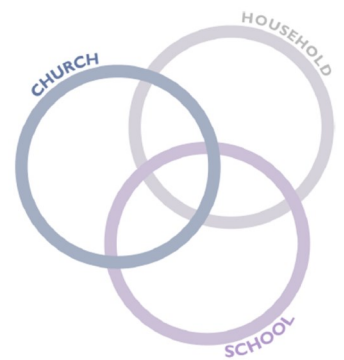
Theos report [Passing on Faith](#) revealed that just 36% of Christian parents want to pass on their beliefs to their children. (See also latest research in America from [Pew research](#) which shows parents preferring their children to be ambitious than share their religious beliefs.)

3. HISTORICALLY BETTER AT CONNECT THAN RESPOND



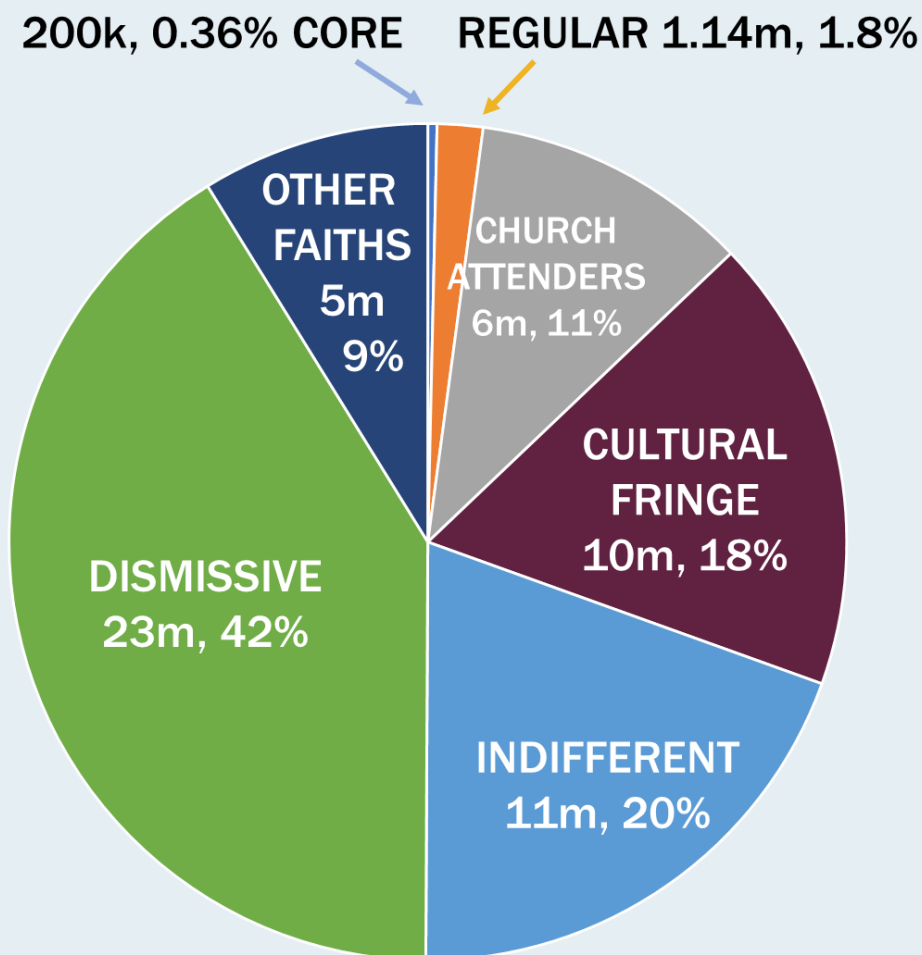
Source [SU 95 Project](#).

4. HOME AND SCHOOL ARE THE FRONTLINE OF CONNECTION



See [Growing Faith Connections](#) and [Growing Faith Foundation](#) for more on this.

Mission Map of England – 2019



‘Evangelism has never depended on a sunny analysis of the culture it is seeking to Christianise; if that were the case, the West would never have been evangelised in the first place.... There is no good reason why the evangelist should be intimidated by prophets of doom who argue that the prospects for evangelism are bleak in the extreme.’

William Abraham, quoted by Hannah Steel, Living His Story

Breakdown of Categories

Out of six million regular church attenders (11% of population)...

CORE ANGLICAN

- 200,000 (0.36% of the population).
- More likely to be female.
- Older than average population.
- Likely to attend weekly or biweekly.
- Has leadership role in church.
- Prayer and Bible is important.
- Society should be rooted in Christian values.
- Want to make a difference.

REGULAR ANGLICAN WORSHIPPER

- 1,000,000 (1.8% of the population).
- More likely to be female.
- Older than average population.
- Likely to have been part of Christian family.
- Likely to attend church less frequently than core.
- Faith is important to them.
- Part of 6m regular worshippers (11% pop).
- 19% believe in God and have no doubts (BSA).

Within the rest of the population...

CULTURAL FRINGE

- 10,000,000 (18% of the population).
- Grew up with some church experience at home/school.
- Tend to believe in God or God force.
- Faith not figure in day-to-day life, but may self identify as Christian/Anglican.
- Likely to attend Christmas service, Cathedral service or life events.
- Views church role to help society and provide moral basis.
- Group declining the quickest 'neither religious or non religious' .
- 6.6m regard themselves as Anglicans, down from 18.4m in 1983 (BSA)

INDIFFERENT TO CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- 11,000,000 (20% of the population).
- Not religious and don't go to church.
- Church is old fashioned and not for me.
- Faith does not figure in day-to-day life, but may self identify as Christian.
- Not hostile to Christians or faith but it doesn't register for them.
- 88% of population are positive or neutral about Christians (BSA).
- Church has a role to serve the poor and vulnerable, and still has impact.

DIMISSIVE OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- 23,000,000 (42% of the population).
- Rise of the 'nones' (37.2% in 2021, up from 25.2% in 2011).
- Very wary of religious control.
- Tolerance and acceptance is key.
- This group is growing the fastest.
- 14.3m don't believe in God (4.9m in 1998) BSA.
- 9.9m are agnostic.
- Prefer to be called non-religious than atheist.
- Top three values are family, friendship and freedom (University of Kent).

ONS Census 2021 for England and Wales

- 46.2% of population indicate Christian (down from 59.3% in 2011).
- No religion 37.2% in 2021 (up from 25.2% in 2011).
- 10.7% indicate other religion (up from 9% in 2011).
- Muslims 3.9m (up from 2.7m in 2011).
- Hindus 1m (up from 818,000 in 2011).
- Sikhs 524,00 (up from 423,000 in 2011).
- Jewish 271,000 (up from 265,00 in 2011).
- Buddhist 273,000 (up from 249,00 in 2011).
- Other religion 348,00 (up from 240,000 in 2011).
- 6.0% didn't answer religion question (down from 7.1% in 2011).



EXERCISE

How do you respond to these observations and what would you add?

IDEA 1: START WITH PRAYER

'When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't, they don't.'

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Loving God,
We bring to you the children, young people and families of our nation.
We pray for those who already know they are your children.
Please protect them, bless them and keep them firm in their faith.
We pray for those who would like to find out more about you.
Please provide ways for them to do that and help us all to play our part.
We pray for those who know little or nothing about Christian faith.
Please stir up curiosity in them to find out more
and in your mercy give them encounters with you that transform their lives.
Please give us courage, faith and hope as we continue to pray.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
Amen.

Join the Church of England [central prayer meeting](#) focused on doubling the number of young people in churches by 2030 (weekly, for 20 minutes, online).

IDEA 2: CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

If you are not sure where to start, start by blessing them! Ask: 'Is there anything we can help with?'



FOR REFLECTION

How could you bless your schools and nurseries?

WORKING WELL WITH YOUR SCHOOL

GOLDEN PRINCIPLES TO REMEMBER

1. It is all about relationships not programmes or activities.
2. 'What do you need?'/ 'How can we help?' are powerful questions for both church and school to ask each other.
3. Think through a pathway to spiritual development together – what can you offer and what can you signpost to?
NB 'spiritual development' is something all schools must provide. It's part of the Ofsted SMSC agenda.
4. Simply blessing one another is a good place to start.

THINKING ABOUT YOUR INVESTMENT

As you look to invest in this partnership, it is worth remembering that churches and schools have very different priorities, though much of their work overlaps. It is helpful to let the Head Teacher be in the driving seat - they may be worried that the church is coming in with an agenda to convert everyone and that the church might behave in ways that are inappropriate in a school context.

Useful national organisations include:

- [Prayer Spaces in Schools](#).
- [Transforming Lives for Good](#) Their 'early Intervention' mentoring scheme is very popular with schools but takes significant volunteer commitment.
- [Open the Book](#) Support for bringing Bible stories to life in school contexts.
- [Centre for Chaplaincy in Education](#).

In order to get the most from any of the above, consider:

- Does it enhance the partnership between church and school (rather than the relationship between the school and an external group)?
- Does it promote a school-church relationship (rather than being a Head/Vicar activity)?
- Does it open other opportunities for ongoing spiritual development (or is it a 'one hit wonder')?
- How does this support a pathway to faith?
- Does it empower or disempower the church community?
- What about the wider family beyond the child - is there a way to include them?
- Are church services and activities easy for new children and families to access?

There is an almost unlimited number of possibilities for how to partner well together. Check out [this link](#) for some ideas to inspire you in your context.



IDEA 3: HELP CHILDREN WITH KEY TRANSITIONS



RESOURCE LINKS

- Guildford Diocese have produced some [materials and a leaver's service](#) for ending and starting a year.
- Scripture Union have an excellent resource called [It's Your Move](#) for children moving from primary to secondary school. There is also a workshop guide and video.
- Lots of resources on the [Prayer Spaces in Schools](#) website.

FOR REFLECTION

What other transitions can you identify in school life for children that you could help them with?

IDEA 4: NURTURE FAITH IN THE HOME

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your heart. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

When asked what stops them from focusing on faith at home, parents listed the top five reasons as:

- Family time devoted to other activities: 32%.
- Not having enough time to spend with my child: 30%.
- Needing help knowing what to do: 24%.
- Worrying I'll do it wrong or put them off: 23%.
- Thinking I'm not a good enough example: 18%.

Source: Care for the Family, [The Kitchen Table Project](#).

FOR REFLECTION

What one thing can you do to nurture faith in the home?

RESOURCE LINKS

[Parenting for Faith](#) has lots of resources (they also have a really helpful Facebook group).

The [Kitchen Table Project](#) is a great way to explore faith in a family.

A report on the [Place of Families in Church Post Covid](#).

RESOURCES

THE ONE TO READ

- Faith in Children, Ronnie Lamont (Monarch).

TOP READS

- Raising Faith, Katherine Hill and Andy Frost (Care for the Family).
- How Not to Totally Put your Children off God, Howard Worsley (Monarch)
- Parenting in the Pew, Robbie Castleman (IVP).
- [How to Nurture a Faith-Sharing Culture](#), James Lawrence (CPAS)

OTHER RESOURCES

- [School Ventures](#), a great way to give children a chance to explore Jesus through a residential experience run in partnership with your local school and CPAS.
- [Ideas and Resources for Evangelism](#) A one stop shop for links to a wide range of resources. Take a look at the columns on **mobilising faith sharing in schools** and **mobilising parents to share faith with their families**.
- [Leading Evangelism Learning Hub](#), a 16 month learning community (see below).
- The [Going for Growth](#) website has lots of links to resources and ideas.



Lead On

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Leading Evangelism Learning Hub

Want to see the ministry of evangelism central to church life rather than on the periphery? Then sign up for our 16 month Hubs for incumbents to attend with others involved in leadership. www.cpas.org.uk/hub.



How to Nurture a Faith Sharing Culture

An exciting and accessible resource to help leaders nurture a faith-sharing culture in their church, congregation, fresh expression or church plant. www.cpas.org.uk/faith-sharing.



Venture and Falcon Holidays

CPAS runs around 90 fun-filled holidays for 8-18 year olds each year. The holidays are run by volunteers, and if you are interested in helping on one or know a young person who would benefit from a great holiday with a focus on Jesus visit www.ventures.org.uk.



Making Mission Possible

CPAS enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus. We are a registered charity working with individuals, churches and dioceses to resource local churches for mission in the UK and Republic of Ireland. To support our work or find out more, please visit www.cpas.org.uk or contact 0300 123 0780.