



How to share your faith

...At home With under 5s

Where is the manual when you have a baby? Despite the lack of one, humans adapt to taking care of their tiny charges.

Sharing your faith with your children is best started when they are young.

If you start young, it will be easier to talk about Jesus and trust God as a family as they grow up.

If you can share faith at home, it makes it easier to share your faith with others.

Verses to think about

1 John chapter 2 vs 13
Psalm 78
Matthew 19 vs 14
Matthew 18 vs 10
Luke 2 vs 19

The Big Idea

Create a space so that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a natural part of your family life. Involve God in the day-to-day routines, not just on a Sunday morning.

You aren't trying to teach children Bible stories, or even how to have faith, but you are creating a space where it is easy for them to ask curious questions. You won't always have the answers but as they get older, you will discover God together. You may even find that your children teach you something about God.

And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 18.3

Find more resources for sharing your faith (personally or with your church) on the [Bath and Wells website](#) or contact [Andy Gray, Faith Sharing Enabler](#).

Top Tips

1. Start in the cradle. Try praying with your baby or smaller children by saying the Lord's prayer. For some people, printing the words might be helpful. Encourage parents to take it in turns to read each night.
2. Read children's bible books, even from when they are very small and still in the cradle. You might like to start with the Big Bible Storybook (Scripture Union). Check out other bibles in your local Christian bookshop, or online.
3. Once they can use words, ask them for their ideas of what to pray for; you pray, they pray. Keep your words simple and prayers short. You might also like to thank God for food before eating for example, thank you God for our food and each other, Amen. Try to draw their attention to when God answers prayers, even simple ones.
4. Don't hide the world or your concerns from them, they find out about it through overhearing conversations, the TV, radio or internet. Responding simply when they ask questions helps, but also ask what they think, and then pray about it together.
5. Join a church toddler group or go to a toddler service – look for a local group that includes Bible stories, songs and crafts that will help in your child's faith journey.
6. Use crafts, walks and exploring to encourage faith-based conversations. Ask questions along the way and do lots of 'wondering' together e.g. 'I wonder why spiders have 8 legs?'
7. Encourage hard questions. Children have them, even from a young age. Don't worry about having the right or wrong answers, but do your best and even better, wonder with them.
8. Don't limit your children as they explore faith for themselves. Look to see how much they can teach about faith. They will also copy you, which is ok, so be the best example you can be of what real faith in Jesus looks like.
9. Children learn most through play, so find opportunities during play to share and talk about faith.
10. Encourage your church to help you, but remember, it isn't the role of the church (or school, or ministers) to make sure that your children grow up with the opportunities to explore faith for themselves. It is the responsibility of you as parent/carer. The role of the church is to cheer you on, and resource you. What might that look like in your church context?

resources

godventure.co.uk

kitchentable.org.uk/
10things

muddychurch.co.uk

It takes a church to raise a parent (Rachel Turner)

**Babies and Toddlers:
Nurturing your child's
spiritual life (Rachel Turner)**

**The Big Bible Story Book
(Scripture Union)**

