

Grandparenting for Faith

Welcome to this short course for church leaders about fostering an ethos in their church of equipping and empowering grandparents and grandparent figures to have more spiritual involvement in the lives of their own grandchildren and those in the wider church.



FAQ

Who is this course for? Anyone involved in church leadership or decision-making, with an interest in equipping and empowering older generations to support the faith formation of younger generations.

What does the course include?



The course is split into four sections. Each section contains things to read, a video and an opportunity to reflect on your own setting. There are also some quizzes! We provide a form for you to complete with your reflections and ideas from each of the sections. Once you complete the course, you can submit this form and you'll get a copy to remind you of the ideas you would like to try out, and we will get a copy to help us to know how the course is helping churches.

The course is based on the book *Grandparenting for Faith*, by Becky Sedgwick, and it is optional to purchase that if you would like further reading.

Who has produced the course?

Becky Sedgwick (Parenting for Faith) and Sarah Holmes (Liverpool Hope University & Institute for Children, Youth and Mission) wrote and produced this course. As part of the recording, we have video contributions from over 40 grandparents, ministry practitioners and specialists. This adds so much insight, experience and ideas to the content.



How long will the course take? The course will take between 1.5 and 2 hours to complete, but feel free to pause and complete it in two sessions, or even four if that's easier. You're also welcome to return to it at a later date for a refresher.

What will I learn? The four sections will guide you through reflecting on key Biblical, practical and research-informed principles, and support you in considering how they could be implemented in your church setting.

Section 1 will explore the underpinning foundations and reasons for empowering older generations to be more involved in supporting the faith of the children and young people around them. We'll look at Biblical concepts of the value of older generations, consider how children's faith develops and hear about experiences where this has been beneficial and impactful on church ethos and children's faith development.



Section 2 will help you to reflect on your own context and consider how role modelling of faith across generations may become more part of the ethos of your church community, embedding more of an intergenerational faith focus. We'll discuss benefits of family and a wider circle supporting children's faith, and not just leaving it to children's church programmes. And consider how the church can enable families and the wider church to celebrate the difference and uniqueness of each family, and not be judgmental or exclusive.



Section 3 will equip you in how you can support families you work with. Research shows that there's often so much caution and hesitancy amongst grandparents about faith-sharing—due to personalities, past experiences or unspoken fears. We will help you to think about how your church could play a role in empowering grandparents to move beyond this and become more intentionally involved in the spiritual life of their grandchild.

In **section 4** we will unpack how this would look in the church setting, where there are not existing family ties, seeking to foster grandparent-like relationships and interactions amongst the congregation. We'll include plenty of practical ideas, to ensure that everyone is kept safe, supported and empowered, as you think about how your church could implement some of these things to equip and empower grandparent figures more fully in your setting.



What is the cost?

The course is £15, although we also have bulk-buy options. Please email [Sarah Holmes](#) for more info on bulk purchases. Once you've paid, you get a log-in and can pop back and too to complete the course, when convenient for you. You do not need to complete it all at one time.

Will I get a certificate? Yes, you will get a certificate upon completion of the course.

Will this course help me to think through my next steps? Yes, the various sections will aid you in thinking through some goals and actions. We encourage you to use the course form to help you and your church to develop a vision and action plan as you seek to support grandparents and grandparent-figures more within your church community.

Is there any follow up? Yes, we have found that people find it helpful if we follow up one month and three months after they have completed the course, to ask about how you are getting on, and let you know that we are cheering you on in this venture! Don't worry, there is no judgment or guilt involved. The purpose of this follow-up contact is simply to keep the topic near the top of your 'to do' list and help to maintain momentum as you seek to develop this ethos more in your church context.

Are there any other courses on this theme? Yes, we also have a course for grandparents and grandparent-figures, which you could run in your church setting. See more information [here](#).

How do I purchase the course? Please use [this weblink](#) or contact Sarah Holmes for more information (sarah.holmes@cym.ac.uk).

