

# Grandparenting for Faith

**Welcome** to this course for anyone who is a grandparent, or who has a grandparent role in a young person's life, maybe as a godparent, aunt or uncle, family friend or in the church community - and who wants to be a supportive role on their faith journey. We recommend that you do the course with others; gathering together on six occasions to watch the videos together and discuss the topics, ideas and issues over a cuppa. Alternatively, the course is designed to also work well when completed on your own. If you're doing it on your own, we'd encourage you to pause, reflect and jot down your thoughts as you work through the modules.



## FAQ

**Who is this course for?** Anyone who wants to be a supportive partner in the faith journey of children/young people within existing relationships. This may be as a grandparent or godparent or other relative within your family context, or as a grandparent figure in your church community.

## What does the course include?



There are six sessions, each focussing on a key aspect of your journey to support a child's faith. Each session includes video content for you to watch, and prompts for you to either reflect on your own or discuss in a group. You will access this using an online webpage, where you can watch the video segments 'on demand,' with the discussion prompts interspersed or download the videos and discussion guide as complete sessions to use at any time. 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.

**What will I learn?** These six sessions will lead you through some of the foundational concepts, practical ideas and enable you to reflect on your own context. The sessions will boost your confidence in faith sharing through these relationships and empower you to develop your own toolkit to enhance your interactions.

**Session 1** will help you to explore God's plan for grandparents and grandparent figures in supporting the faith journey of a child or young person. Research insights and expert opinions reveal that you have influence simply by being part of a child/young person's life. This session will help you to build connections with the children around you that will help you share God with them, using some of our practical ideas.

**Session 2** will encourage you to recall your own story and share how you can give children and young people glimpses of your relationship with God along the way. Children and young people learn by watching and copying, so we will equip you to open their eyes to the reality of a relationship with God, and the possibilities for them too. Insights from ministry workers and grandparents will share ideas which have worked for them.



**Session 3** will equip you for accompanying children and young people on their journey through life. They may not realise the part God is playing in the world. In this session you'll be equipped how to explain this as part of everyday life, harnessing the child's natural curiosity but also navigating the challenging moments, and laying foundations of truth for them to draw on. Ministry workers and grandparents will share some of their ideas and experiences.



In **Session 4** we will discuss how grandparents can pray well for their grandchildren. Prayer is the gift which God has given to make a difference in every circumstance. We'll hear from some adults about the spiritual legacy which their grandparents imparted onto them through prayer, and there will be encouragements and tools to aid you in praying with and for your grandchildren and other grandparents as you journey through life together.

**Session 5** will help you to understand more about how children and young people access the Bible today. You will be inspired and empowered with ideas to choose Bibles and Bible story books which are relevant at every stage. We'll also include some ideas for exploring Bible stories with your grandchild, as you share the influence which God's story has on your life.

In **Session 6** we'll be thinking about how we can share the value of church with children, so that they see it as a possibility, regardless of whether they are a part of church now. We'll share practical ideas to help children to have positive experiences of church, and navigate conversations with family. We'll encourage you to continue to use your toolkit, along with support from other grandparents, to continue your journey of grandparenting for faith.

### **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?** There are six sessions, which each contain one hour of video content, but we encourage you to pause and reflect or discuss a few times during each session. If you are running the course as part of a group, you could extend the sessions to two hours to allow more time for discussion. You could even split each session into a few parts if you want to take longer for discussion and fellowship together. We also encourage you to continue your thinking and conversation outside of these sessions, to support other grandparents and also to foster greater dialogue with the children you are supporting.



### **What is the cost?**

The course is £30. 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. If you are completing the course individually, the certificate will show your name, and if you are completing the course as a group, the certificate will show your group name.

**Will this course help me to think through my next steps?** Yes, each of the sessions will aid you in thinking through some goals and actions. And at the end of the course, you will be encouraged to put together a plan to help you move forwards and continue to develop your learning and interactions.

**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 your spiritual support.

**Are there any other courses on this theme?** Yes, we also have a course for anyone involved in church leadership, to equip them in fostering a church culture which empowers grandparents and grandparent figures. 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](mailto:sarah.holmes@cym.ac.uk)).

