

PRESS RELEASE

from The Bible Reading Fellowship



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parenting for faith® New report confirms impact of two leading Christian parenting projects

An extensive evaluation of the work of two national Christian parenting programmes has highlighted their impact and effectiveness and identified areas for significant future development.

BRF's Parenting for Faith programme and Care for the Family's Kitchen Table Project are funded by the Douglas Trust and are together known as the Vine Programme. The research was commissioned by the Douglas Trust and carried out by NCVO researcher Amira Tharani.

The thorough and detailed report is based on monitoring data for both projects as well as primary data from a survey and interviews. The survey was conducted in July–September 2020 and received 308 responses. Thirty-eight interviews were conducted. The report is measured in tone but offers leaders of both programmes encouragement and new insights to help shape and direct their work with families and churches.

Key findings

- The approachable, down-to-earth and encouraging tone of resources – websites, videos, podcasts, books, etc. – was frequently highlighted, as was the practical nature of the materials, with tools and ideas that could easily be implemented.
- The insight that children had, from a very early age, their own direct, unmediated relationship with God led, in many cases, to several related outcomes. These included parents taking a child-centred approach to nurturing faith, letting go of expectations about 'getting it right' or what 'right' looked like, and modelling their own faith in a more authentic way.
- A key entry point to transforming church culture is using the materials in training for church leaders and volunteers within children's and family work, which several churches in the sample had begun to do or had been doing for some time. This enabled church workers to align the language that they used with children and parents, as well as, in some cases, the wider church.

Rachel Turner, pioneer of Parenting for Faith, comments:

'I am humbled and encouraged to read the findings of the NCVO evaluation. To know that the tools, course, training and community that Parenting for Faith provides for parents, family workers and church leaders is working affirms the methodology used to encourage faith in the home. We now look forward to making Parenting for Faith more widely known in our nation and to spiritually nurturing many more families in the coming years.'

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BRF's vision is to enable people of all ages to grow in faith and understanding of the Bible and to see more people equipped to exercise their gifts in leadership and ministry. BRF ministries include Anna Chaplaincy, Living Faith, Messy Church and Parenting for Faith. Find out more at brf.org.uk.



Katharine Hill, UK director for Care for the Family, said:



‘It’s so good to see the positive impact of the Kitchen Table Project and how the resources have helped parents and churches think about how they help children grow in faith. It’s wonderful to see the changes in ways of thinking so that raising faith at home is becoming a more natural way of life. The NCVO report has given our Kitchen Table Project team motivation and focus to continue with this important work.’

Richard Fisher, chief executive of BRF, responded to the evaluation:

‘We are delighted with the findings of the NCVO report, which are an encouragement to all of us at BRF involved with Parenting for Faith. We wanted to make what started out as a local church initiative accessible to families and churches across the nation, and it’s exciting for us to see the momentum growing all the time. This evaluation is a welcome endorsement of the Parenting for Faith vision and the impact it is having.’

To read the full report, and view the accompanying summary presentation of key findings, click [here](#).

For more information about Parenting for Faith, click [here](#).

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