

GROWING

God's
Good
Story



Series Overview

faith **in** kids

Series Overview



Thank you for using a Faith in Kids resource. We want to hear your feedback so we can keep improving our resources. Please use the QR code above to fill out a short form or email us at info@faithinkids.org

One of our partner churches recently had an extended time of teaching on sexuality and gender. The youth aged eleven-plus were brought in as well. In the question time afterwards there was no hostility or shock, just many, many questions about how this works itself out in the everyday. How can we love gay family members well? What can I say about my beliefs in the workplace? What do I say when my children ask about their friend who wants to change their name and pronouns? What do I do when my teacher assumes that all of our class supports same-sex marriage?

Our children are growing up in an increasingly complex world. Marriages are no longer only between a man and a woman. Gender is seen as a choice to be made, not a given identity to enjoy. Dissatisfaction with our bodies is widespread, while adverts continue to show a 'normal' that none of us can attain. Sexuality is being

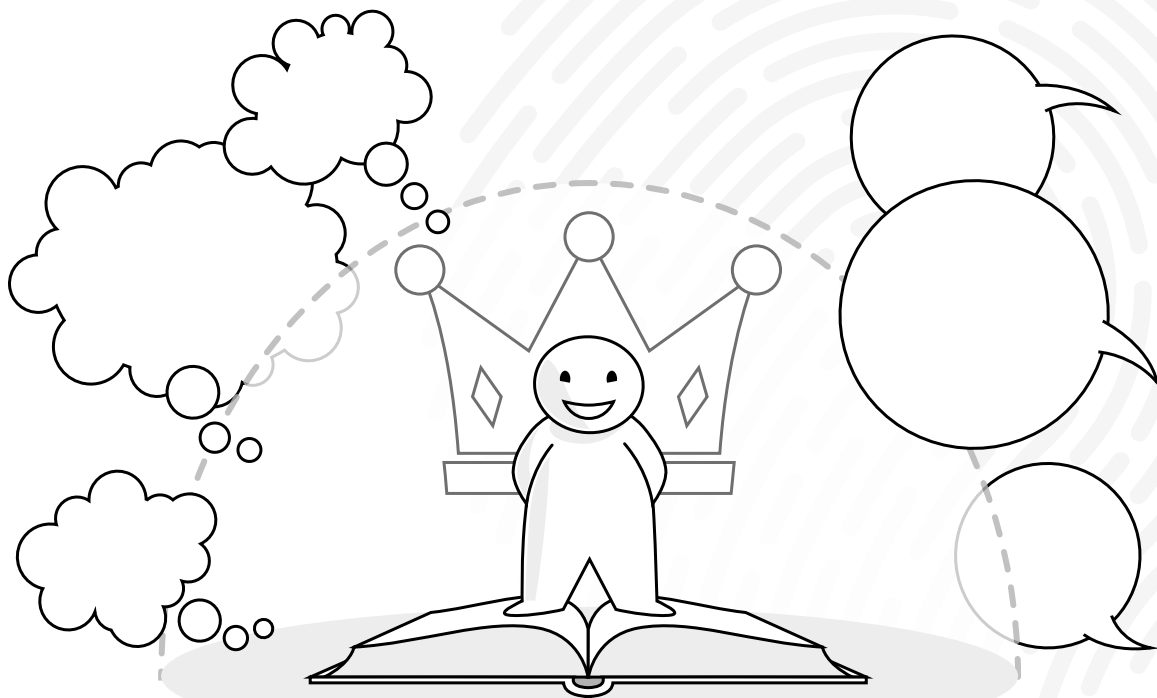
discussed in playgrounds before sexual desires have even begun.

We may find all this confusing, but we don't need to panic or be afraid. To be a Christian is to trust one who always has the situation under control, who is never worried and who always holds the answers.

*In God, whose word I praise,
in the Lord, whose word I praise –
in God I trust and am not afraid.
What can man do to me?*

PSALM 56:10-11

continued →





Growing Up: God's Good Story aims to begin conversations about bodies, gender and desires with the children in our churches and support parents to continue these conversations at home. We recognise that these topics are complex and that Christians will disagree about how they should be taught to children (if at all). We want our children to know that God is relevant to every topic and that their church is a place where real life is talked about and wrestled with.

With the 7s and under, we simply celebrate the wonder of their created bodies and explain that listening to God gives the best answers to all of our questions about who we are.

With the 8s and over, we begin to show the contrast between what the Bible teaches and what our culture believes. We do this in an age-appropriate way, rather than following our culture in its early sexualisation of children. For instance, we talk about 'images that don't treat bodies with respect' rather than pornography.

Each session includes a take-home sheet that enables parents and carers to hear what was taught and to take the conversation further, as they choose. We want parents to have the most sensitive, important conversations at home as they are best placed to do so - they know their children best and have primary responsibility for teaching them. We want to support parents with direction and practical suggestions, because we understand that many feel nervous discussing these subjects.

Growing Up has been written to build on our earlier resource "Who am I?", a seven week lesson plan that taught the foundations of "identity in Christ". Growing Up covers some of those topics in more depth, and although it can be used as a stand-alone resource, we feel it will work best if "Who am I?" has been taught in the recent past.

Praise for the existing "Who am I?" resources:

"The YouTube teaser looks fab, but the material itself is immense. This 7-week suite of resources helps open up positive conversations with families."

A church leader, about the first 'Who am I?' resource

"I was so excited to hear you address the transgender issue with such boldness, but also with such compassion and nuance. I felt more empowered and at peace on this topic than I have in a long time! (I'm a bit ashamed to admit that I have gotten rather fearful of the whole subject as I'm raising 2 young kids in a world that feels so different than the one I grew up in.) I'm looking into the resources for my church and parenting small group. Thank you so much for the work you're doing!!"

A mum, about one of the associated podcasts

	Lesson title	Bible passage	What is the truth that changes our children?	How does this truth change our children?	Issues this session will tackle with 8 years and over
1	I am who God says I am	Genesis 1:26-27 Psalm 112:1	We are made by God. He knows who we really are.	Children who listen to God, trusting that he knows what is best for them.	Growing awareness of differences and a desire to fit in with friends. We pick up messages from within and around us. We can measure these against the voice of our loving creator God - he tells us who we truly are - we listen to him.
2	I am male or female	Genesis 1:27, 2:7, 22 Ecclesiastes 12:1	Our body tells us whether God made us male or female. Puberty is when our body changes, but our sex does not.	Children who understand that their sex has been chosen by their loving creator and that growing up is good.	Our bodies are wonderfully designed to grow and change during puberty. Our God-given sex does not change, we were made to be male or female. Some people struggle with the body God has given them, but the loving God who made them didn't get that wrong and we can trust him.
3	I have a valuable body	Psalm 139:14 1 Corinthians 6:19-20	Our bodies are a gift from God that we treat with care.	Children who value and protect their God-given bodies.	We are naturally curious about bodies, particularly as we experience puberty and attraction develops. How we think about bodies matters. Some parts are especially precious and need protection. We don't share private parts of our bodies or other people's.
4	I know God's plan for marriage	Genesis 2:18-25 Matthew 19:4-6	God created marriage to demonstrate his love and faithfulness	Children who understand and value marriage because they trust God's loving faithfulness to them.	God created marriage to be the faithful commitment of one man and one woman for life. It is the only true home for sex and the way a new family begins. Marriage gives our children a little glimpse of the loving faithfulness of God.
5	I have big feelings	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	We belong to the Lord who can help us to respond well to our big feelings.	Children who make good choices with their strong feelings because they know who they belong to.	As we grow up we develop new, bigger feelings, like attraction and sexual desires. We are not afraid, because God helps us to act wisely on our deep feelings.
6	We live what we believe	Philippians 2:14-16	We live differently because we know that we are children of God.	Children living differently with God as the biggest influence on their thoughts and actions.	Listening to and obeying God will mean we stand out from others. We want to live out our faith every day, confident in the truth of God's word, with great grace for those who think differently.





Faith in Kids exists to encourage, inspire and equip influencers of faith in children with support, training and resources.

Partner with us

We can offer this resource free of charge to churches everywhere because of the generosity of our supporters – people like you! Please consider partnering with us by giving monthly so that we can continue writing new resources.

To support us, [please scan the QR code](#) or email us at info@faithinkids.org



www.faithinkids.org

© 2024 Faith in Kids

