

Grandparenting for Faith

BECKY SEDGWICK

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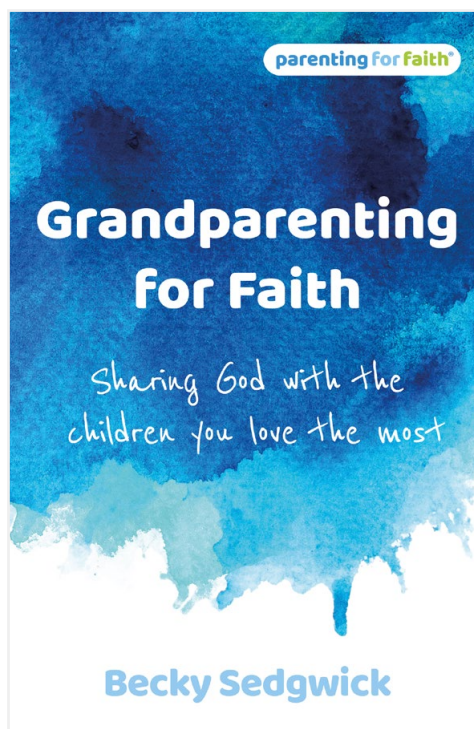
£9.99

Before you turn away from this review because you are not a grandparent or do not know anyone who is, please pause and read on a sentence or two. The reason I say this is because I would change the subtitle of this book to 'Sharing God with the people you love'.

Due to the way family life has changed so much, the role of grandparents has also changed. In some cases, grandparents are on hand for regular childcare which can make a big difference to family budgets. In other cases, grandparents have little contact because their families have moved far away, perhaps to another part of the country, or another part of the world and contact is through video calls or some other means. This book is written to enable you to use the hints and tips for those you care about, whether they are near or far.

Becky Sedgwick reminds readers that children today get their ideas about God from different sources, be that television and film media, collective worship in school, or their RE lessons. God's plan on the other hand is that children learn of faith in the home (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). This is confirmed by Youth for Christ research in 2016 who asked 1,001 young people: what or who influences your faith/religion? 73% said it was their family.

We know that connecting with those we care about is key, and the author emphasises the importance of



this too. It does not need to be complicated. An out-of-the-blue message to say 'thinking of you' can make a difference. It tells them that they matter, and that we care.

Becky Sedgwick is clear that sometimes, it can be difficult to share our faith with our grandchildren, especially if our children have said they do not want us to share our faith with them. Helpfully, Becky gives some pointers of what to do in this situation, and includes a reminder that faith is not only communicated by words. Our grandchildren, and all those around us, will be noticing what inspires us, what our values

are, and how we live our lives. God works through these things and we shouldn't be surprised if our grandchildren or others we have contact with ask us about our faith.

The book concludes with a 'small group notes' section. There are ten ready-made sessions that could be used in a home group or, if you have one, a church book club. Again, the focus does not have to be just on grandchildren; it may be that we have godchildren we would like to find ways of connecting with, or that we want to encourage other grandparents in our congregations.



REVIEWED BY NICOLA BRIGGS

Rev Nicola Briggs is a Presbyterian currently serving as the Superintendent Minister of the Ashbourne One Church Circuit and as Synod Secretary of the Nottingham and Derby District.