

# Faith in the Family

Supporting parents in their most important ministry



# The challenge

kitchen  
table  
project

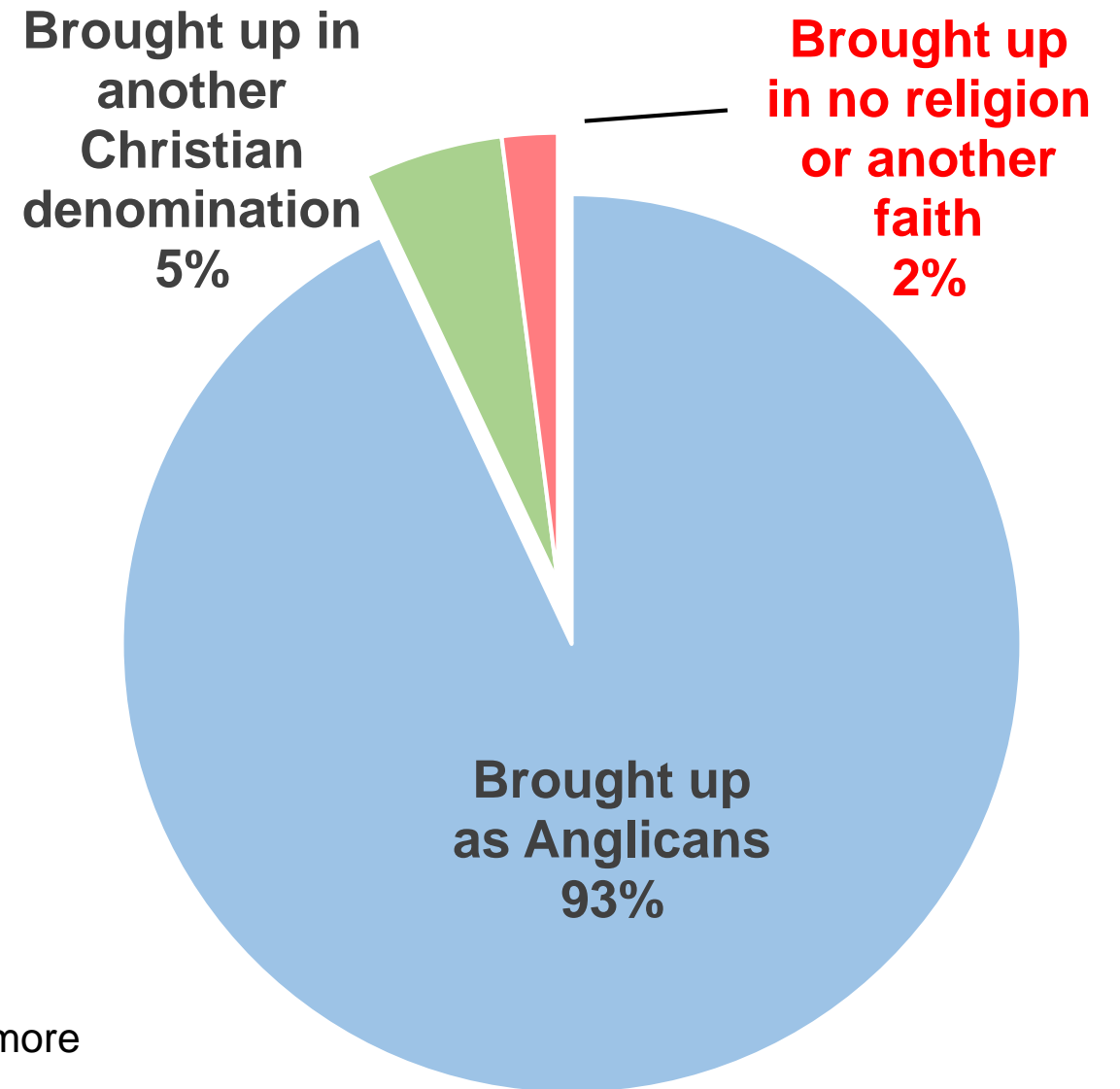


Inspire a faith that lasts

## The Challenge

- Most people come to faith by age 18
- Only 2% of Anglicans are converts from non-Christian families
- 92% of adult churchgoers say they attended church at least occasionally as children

See Care for the Family's booklet *Faith in our Families* for more details and sources





Only around 50% of children brought up in Christian homes still follow the faith as adults

However successful our evangelistic efforts with people who were not born into Christian homes, there is likely to be a disastrous decline in the UK church unless we can find a way to help parents pass on their faith.



# The greatest influence

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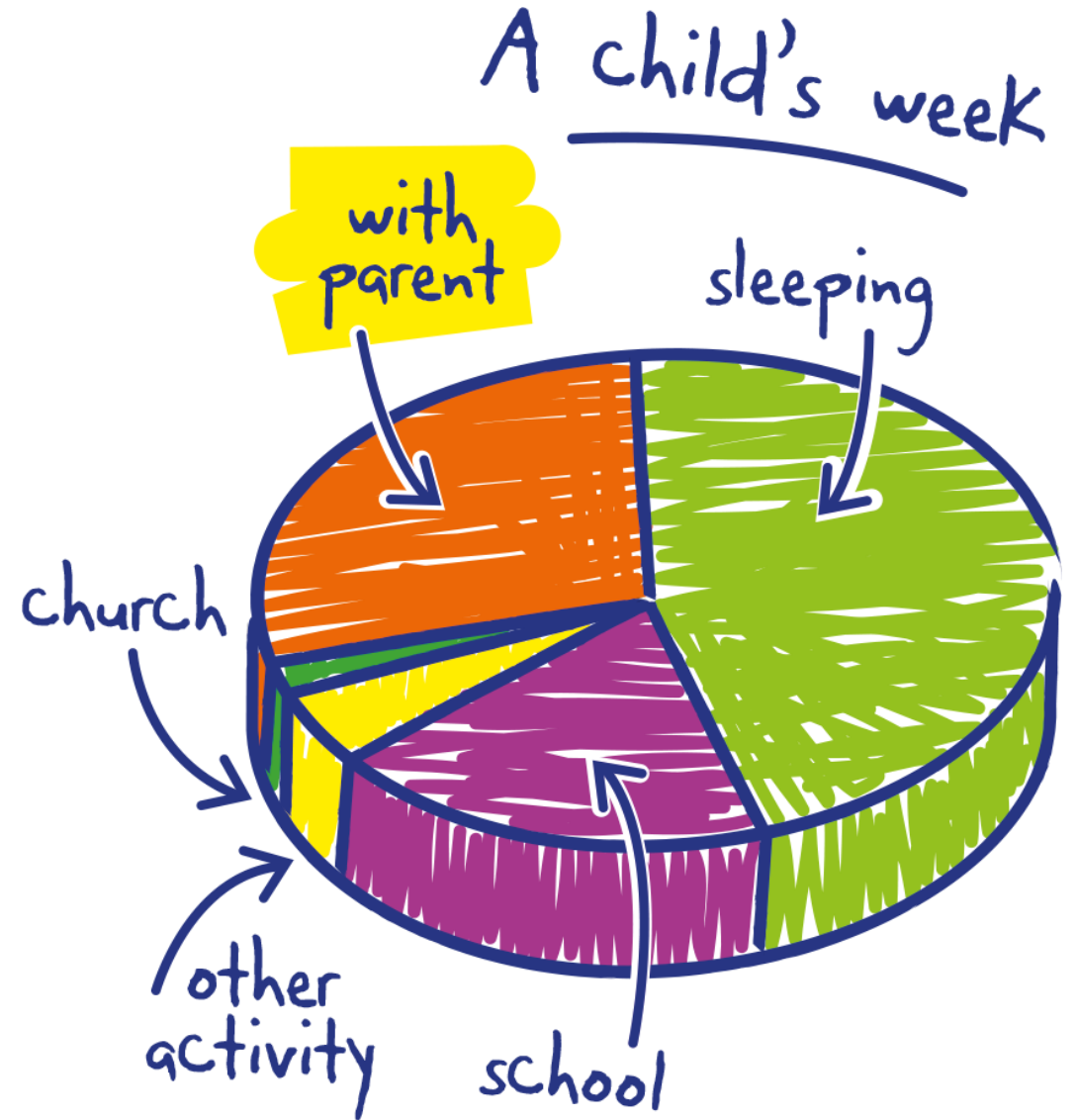
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## Parents are the biggest influencers ...

A child who does not go to playgroup or nursery school will probably spend at least **21,900 daytime hours** within the home by the time they are ten.

It could take the average church group more than **421 years** to spend the same amount of time with this child.



## God's design for parents

‘Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.’

Deuteronomy 6:4





# How can churches help?

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# Parents need support and encouragement

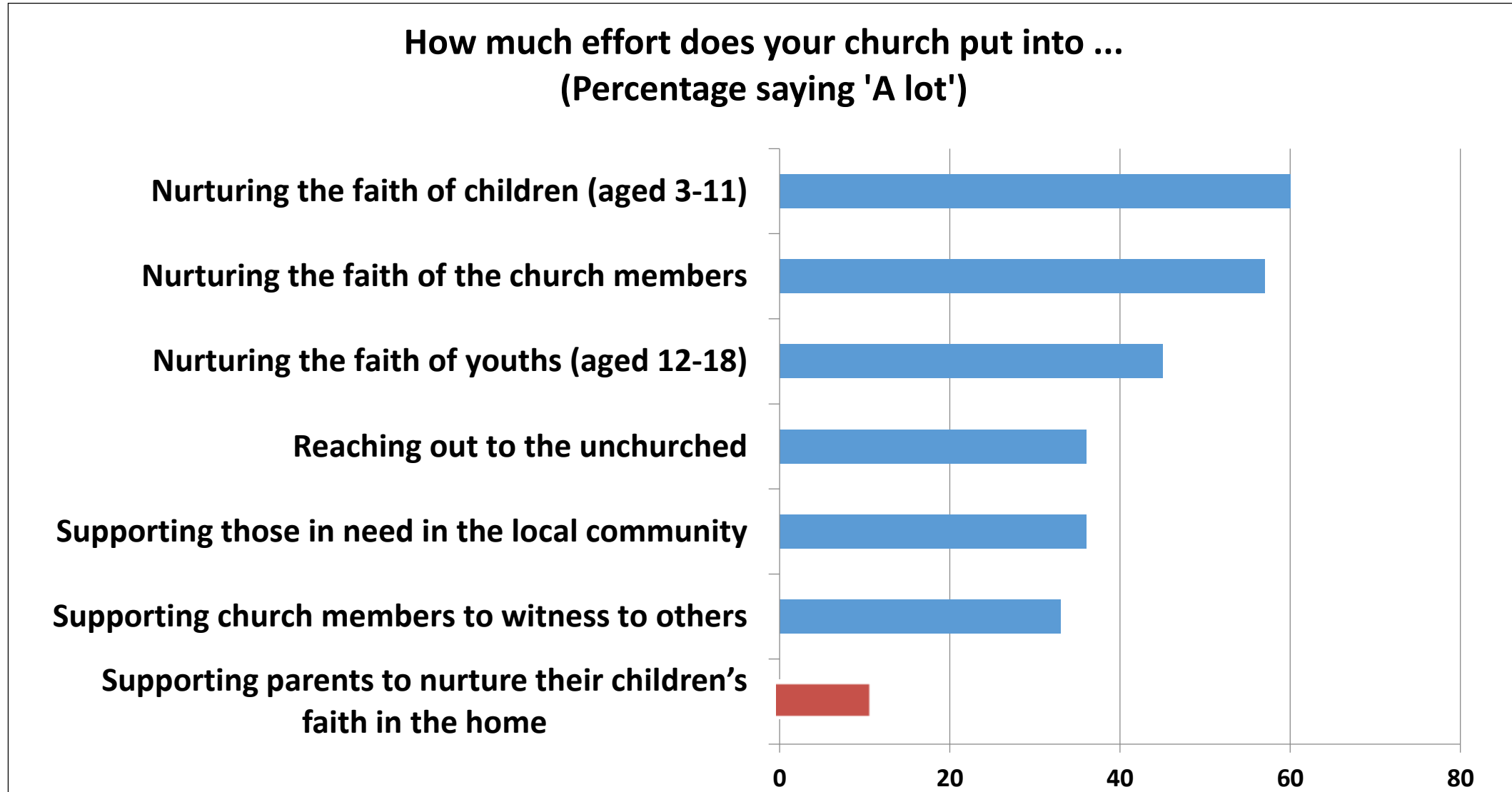
**28%** of church-attending Christians do not mind whether or not their children share their beliefs.

**85%** of parents believe that they are primarily responsible for their child's spiritual development

**BUT**

they also genuinely believe that the Church is better placed than they are to actually do it.

## Churches aren't sure how to equip parents for this crucial ministry at home







# Challenges and opportunities

- Not enough time or people?
  - Families too busy?
  - Not sure where to start?
- 
- We don't have to have it all together
  - It's a change of mindset



# What helps?

- 1. Home** – A warm, affirming family where children feel safe, loved and accepted gives a secure foundation for their faith to grow.
- 2. Be real** – It's not about expertise. We're not perfect, but living out our faith in a genuine way inspires children to want this for themselves.
- 3. Be intentional** – Finding simple ways to involve God naturally in everyday life encourages our children to know and love him.
- 4. Belong** – Involving children at church and building relationships with others helps our children feel they belong in God's family.



What does this mean  
for us?

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# How we can help parents

Four key factors which can help to inspire children's faith:

**1. Home** – A warm, affirming family where children feel safe, loved and accepted gives a secure foundation for their faith to grow.



*Run a course such as Parentalk to support mums and dads in their parenting*

**2. Be real** – It's not about expertise. We're not perfect, but living out our faith in a genuine way inspires children to want this for themselves.



*Suggest to parents that they meet up for mutual support – in person or in a Facebook group*



# How we can help parents

**3. Be intentional** – Finding simple ways to involve God naturally in everyday life encourages our children to know and love him.



*Share the 'Top Tips' leaflet with parents for practical ideas*

**4. Belong** – Involving children at church and building relationships with others helps our children feel they belong in God's family.



*Find ways to let children serve in church, and make opportunities for young and old to mix*

Introducing ...

# The Kitchen Table Project

a new initiative  
pioneered by Care for the Family

kitchen  
table  
project



Inspire a faith that lasts

# Inspire a faith that lasts

The Kitchen Table Project is a growing movement of mums and dads learning from each other and sharing ideas so we can all succeed in inspiring faith in our homes.







# Key messages

Just 50% of children growing up in Christian homes will keep their faith as adults. As parents we can change that.

The good news is that you don't need to be an expert.

As parents, there are plenty of simple things we can do to nurture a living faith at home.

We can help each other and share ideas so we can all succeed in inspiring faith in our homes.

We are growing a movement of mums and dads inspiring a faith that lasts. Join us.



## How will it work?

- Launching the campaign (January 2018)
- Creating a simple, engaging *Inspire* session which people can run with friends or in church. It will introduce the topic and start parents on the journey of inspiring faith at home
- A new magazine-style book to inspire parents (March 2018)
- A 'church toolkit' to help churches support parents to nurture faith
- Events for parents (autumn 2018 onwards)
- A course and other resources for parents
- Liaising with BRF (Parenting for Faith) – [www.parentingforfaith.org](http://www.parentingforfaith.org)

## Next steps?

- Register for updates at [www.kitchentable.org.uk](http://www.kitchentable.org.uk) and join @ktpcampaign on Facebook and Twitter
- Share the research booklet with others and encourage them to sign up too
- Identify those who might run an *Inspire* session in your church
- Spread the word when the Kitchen Table Project launches!



We are building a movement of mums and dads who can support each other, learn from each other, share ideas and inspire a faith that lasts.

Follow us

