

## Parenting For Faith Course at Eastgate Christian Centre by Rae Randall

Bringing [Parenting for Faith](#) to our families community at Eastgate Christian Centre has been an answer to a lot of prayer. Our caregivers and parents have wanted a bit more discipling and community around how to raise our kids in a world where there is a lot of *information* and *communication*, but where truth, and real *connection* with *God* is hard to find, for some time. The year 2020 made a lot of parents and caregivers feel isolated as well, and as Families Pastor, I knew that a course like that would bring the community back in again; to restore friendships and relationships, to give everyone options of expanding their own relationship circles, and to just know that “hey – you’re not alone”.

### Marketing/Comms

We “marketed” the event through social media channels and digital mail strategies. I would say probably 70% of the parents/caregivers who did register were “shoulder-tapped” the good ol’ fashioned way by either myself or one of my discussion group leaders.



### Be flexible



We had 63 parents/caregivers who filled out the digital form and registered and I managed to raise up 5 pairs of leaders (husband and wife volunteers), so I knew that I could put 10-14 people in each group. The tip was to be flexible and offer options. The P4F course is really an 8-session-course, but for the purposes of making it sustainable, I have made this into a 5 session or 5 week course, and have made the remaining 3 videos available to our course participants to do after the course has wrapped up in a special church online drive folder. On average so far, maybe about 55 parents and 13 children turn up each evening.

### Make it easy

We also provided a light pizza supper and a creche with 3 or 4 experienced Young Adult babysitters to make it appealing and “do-able”.



### Be organized and honour people’s time

I try my best to do a lot of the prep, planning and setup so that when my leaders, volunteers and then the course-attendees turn up, we are ready to go and we stick to a schedule. Pretty much everything is set up by the time everyone turns up. 6pm – the pizza is ready to go, and the creche is heated, and the babysitters are there. 6:30pm, the team and I spend a quick moment praying together in the kitchen and encouraging one another. 6:35pm, Dan (my husband) and I do a bit of a mini-MC slot with icebreakers and baby crunchie bars for course attendees who don’t mind standing up and sharing something they implemented through the week from the course. 6:45pm, we run the video. By 7:15pm, the groups are in discussion mode, whilst Dan and I reorganize furniture quietly around them. 8pm, the group leaders

