

STICKY FAITH TRAINING TOUR

A Partnership between Creative Daydream,
Oxford CYM, Scripture Union and Urban Saints

According to research statistics: UK Church Statistics 2005-2015

90% decline in the number of under 20's attending the church over the last 20 years

39% of churches have no-one attending under 11 years of age

49% of churches have no-one attending between the ages of 11-14

59% of churches have no-one attending between the ages of 15-19

According to the Sticky Faith research, 40-50% of those in church youth groups stick with their faith through university. *Is children and young people's faith sticky like Solvite or sticky like Post it notes?*

What is Sticky Faith like?

Internal and External

Personal and Communal

Mature and Maturing

Whose responsibility is it to develop Sticky Faith? All God's people! Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. Always remember these commands I give you today. Teach them to your children, and talk about them when you sit at home and walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them down and tie them to your hands as a sign. Tie them on your forehead to remind you, and write them on your doors and gates.

Sticky Faith Research Findings: The Fuller Youth Institute

- Gospel: Through the teaching that they have received, young people understand the gospel to be a 'gospel of sin management'.
- Identity: Shelving faith after moving on from youth group can happen as young people are unsure as to where they belong and whom they can identify with. Is their identity within the youth group or the whole church community? Have they got role models of faith outside of a youth group setting?
- Conversations: Most parents don't talk about faith to their children. Who are young people talking to and what are they talking about? Where are they looking for the answers to the big questions?
- Relationships: Children and young people need a variety of people who speak into their lives. Who are young people spending time with and forming relationships with? Do they have the opportunities for this to happen with people of all ages?
- Justice: The occasional mission trip offers no guarantee to fulfil children and young people's desire for justice. How do children and young people feel about their involvement in justice and do they see it as an outworking of their faith?

Sticky Faith in Practice

- Sticky Gospel: The Gospel as trusting
- Sticky Identity: Identifying with adult faith in worship
- Sticky Conversations: Talking about the tricky issues and doubts
- Sticky Relationships: Building a web of relationships
- Sticky Justice: Making justice part of everyday life

Sticky Faith Headlines

1. Shift from a behaviour based gospel to a grace based gospel
2. Shift from separating children and young people from the rest of the church to integrating them into the life of the church
3. Shift from a dry-cleaner view of parenting to partnering with parents
4. Shift from 'social action tourism' to long-term, relational, everyday service

Workshop: Sticky Faith in Church

How can we make translate some of the findings from the Sticky Faith research and turn that into plans for our work with children and young people in churches?

- **How intergenerational is your church community? Are your children's and youth groups separate from the rest of the church? How well does your church include children and young people in its day-to-day life?**

The church family can come together through residential, prayer, technology, leadership, worship, service and justice.

- **How can we encourage children and young people to serve in the church?**

Through the different 'teams' on a Sunday and throughout the week, but also getting young people to help with children's groups.

- **What is the value of having adults take an active interest in the lives of children and young people?**

The 5:1 ratio: five significant adults involved in the life of each child or young person. Not family or workers, but members of the church community, or Christian adults known to the family. Involvement can be regular or more occasional, but must be genuine! This sees adults involved, community formed and friendships started.

Workshop: Sticky Faith at Home

Deuteronomy 6:4-9: We have already looked at these verses and seen how they were spoken by Moses to the people on the Plains of Moab before they entered the Promised Land. They were addressed to the whole community and were to be worked out in a community setting. One expression of that community is the family.

- **Sticky Conversations:**

Most parents don't talk about faith with their children: Young people whose parents talk about faith have more sticky faith.

Christian Parents tend to avoid tricky subjects: Parents who talk about doubts help faith to stick.

Young people with Sticky faith have parents who encourage individual thought.

- **Sticky Conversations made practical:**

Provide space and time for quality conversations - Learn to listen and ask questions and not lecture

Create the right venue for meaningful conversation - Don't avoid the touchy subjects

Be creative if your child does not want to talk to you

Share your own faith

Seek out sticky faith ideas from other parents

Talk about your doubts

Develop conversation rituals – using times and occasions to prompt specific conversation

- **Sticky Relationships:**

It is important for young people to spend time with all ages of Christians in church: young people who only go to youth groups have less sticky faith

Build the 5:1 principle of relationships.

On-going relationships after young people leave home are key to faith being sticky.

- **Sticky Justice:**

Children and young people have a strong heart for justice. How, as families, are we encouraging are children to become involved in matters of justice? Parents have a key role in encouraging and enabling involvement in issues that matter. Find sticky causes that matter to your child or even better let them find them, and get involved as a family.

Workshop: Sticky Faith in School

- How can we be parents, children's workers, youth workers or church leaders who love and serve God and others, and who raise children and young people who do likewise? How can we plant a vision for kingdom service so deeply in our children and young people that they can't help but offer love and hope to those in need?
- If Sticky Faith is both internal and external then in school we need to offer something to think about, something to feel and something to do.
If Sticky Faith is both personal and communal then in school we need to offer something that matters to 'me' but is done with others.
If Sticky Faith is both mature and maturing then in school we need to have expectations of the children and young people and room for growth.
- If Non-Sticky Faith is unable to define Christianity then in school we need to talk about friendship and relationship with Jesus.
If Non-Sticky Faith has adopted the 'Gospel of Sin Management' then in school we need to offer a doctrine of grace and mercy.
If Non-Sticky Faith is Focusing on 'obeying' rather than 'trusting' then in school we need to be 'trustworthy' and offer as many opportunities to trust as possible.
- If Sticky Faith says: 'I am God's beloved child'; 'I am part of God's community'; 'What happens in my day, week, month, year matters'; 'I can grow through hardship'; 'What am I like is more important than my grades'. Then in Schools we need to be speaking in terms of: Love, Community, Commitment, Justice, Perseverance, Righteousness.

Sticky Justice: Justice is a biblical value and theme. It is about Shalom – a state of flourishing in all dimensions of one's existence – in relation to God, others, nature and oneself

- YP want to be involved in justice and service work. It was what was those involved in the research said.
- They want to extend God's Shalom to the least, the last and the lost.
- Short term mission work does not lead to lasting transformation
- Service is stickier when it hits closer to home
- As a parent, how do you prepare your child to be an ambassador for Christ's justice at school?
- As a children's/youth worker how can you create a culture of 'active faith' at school?
- As a church leader how can you support children or young people 'faithing' at school?

Making It Happen: Ready for the Journey

1. Sticky Faith is more caught than taught
2. The power of shared stories
3. Children need to own their faith
4. Growth and change are necessary and often messy
5. Identify advocates and obstacles
6. YOUR faith impacts your child more than any other factor
7. Communicate, communicate, communicate
8. Foster a lifelong friendship with your child
9. Experiment around the margins
10. Give your child to Jesus
11. Be patient. Good things take time

Action Planning: Review and Plan

1. What have you heard tonight that has challenged your thinking?	2. Who should you talk to about the issues raised?
3. What actions do you need to take in order to implement any ideas you have heard about?	4. Do you have any further questions?

Looking Forward: Resources for the journey

- Sticky Faith Book and Website (www.stickyfaith.org)
- Explore Together: Community Bible Discovery (www.exploretogether.org)
- X:Site: Bi-monthly, town-wide events for children (www.scriptureunion.org.uk/xsite)
- Training: available through any of the organisations involved today
- Residential Holidays: provided by Scripture Union and Urban Saints

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