



Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households

FOR USE WITH AGE GROUP 12-15

This is a sample session. Please feel free to adapt it to suit the needs and make up of your group. It might be easiest for one person to lead the session, while another jots down notes or observations.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE SESSION

Adapt this 'script' to suit your group:

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are senior leaders in the Church of England. They want to know what helps families and households to live well today.

They have asked a group of people (called Commissioners) to help them find out. The Commissioners have already heard from a number of people, but now they want to test out what they've heard with you and hear your ideas.

There are no right or wrong answers – the Commissioners want to hear what you really think.

OPTIONAL STARTER

Preparation: Gather newspapers and magazines, sheets of A3 paper, pens, glue and scissors.

Working in 2s or 3s, ask your group to create collages using words and images that answer the question,

'What is a family?'

Ask permission to photograph the collages (ensuring that no attributable data is captured) for submission to the Commission.

Extension: Invite the group to comment on their choices of words and images. Respect their freedom to share or not to share.

Jot down some of the questions or themes which the young people discuss for submission to the Commission.





CORE ACTIVITY 1

Preparation: Print or write these quotes on large pieces of paper and place them around your meeting area. Have sets of different coloured sticky dots for each participant.

Read out the quotes which are things that adults have told the Commission about families. Give each participant 6 sticky dots, 3 each of 2 colours. Invite them to move around and add their dots to the statements using colour A to agree, colour B to disagree. They do not have to use all their dots, and they can vote more than once for a statement.

Quotes

- a. A family is a group of one or two parents and their children which work as one unit. They share love, help and support each other.
- b. There are lots of different kinds of families.
- c. A family is where you feel safe and loved.
- d. You can have more than one family.
- e. A family is a group of people connected by love.
- f. A family is the people who look after you every day.

Extension: Invite the group to discuss or comment on the statements that got the most positive votes and the most negative votes.

Record how many positive and negative votes are given for each statement, along with any key comments or themes that come from the discussion.

CORE ACTIVITY 2

Preparation: Write these nine headings* on individual Post-It notes (or print from this PDF). Make enough sets so that your group can work in 3s and 4s. The headings are:



Family and Home
School
Friends
Future
Appearance
Money and things
Good health
Having choices
Local area



When young people were asked what helped them have a good childhood, these are some of the things they said. Invite each group of 3 or 4 to arrange in a diamond shape with the most important thing at the top, the next two in the second row, three in the third row, two in the fourth and the lowest priority at the bottom. Invite each group to comment on how they made their choices. Is there anything they would want to add or takeaway? Why?

Jot down any additions or explanations that are suggested for submission to the Commission.

Photograph the diamonds for submission to the Commission.

* taken from the Good Childhood Enquiry



OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Preparation: Create a [Slido](#), [Mentimeter](#) (or similar) with the question:

‘What matters most about family?’

as a word cloud option. Enable the option for multiple words to be entered.

Invite the group to access Slido/Mentimeter and to enter up to five words which, for them, answer the question:

‘What is most important about family?’

Download or screenshot the resulting word cloud for submission to the Commission.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Create a [Jamboard](#) (or similar) entitled

‘What the church needs to know about families in order to support young people to flourish.’

and invite the group to contribute to it.

Either download or screenshot the completed board for submission to the Commissioners.



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of families.**



**A family is where you feel safe
and loved.**



**You can have more than
one family**



**A family is a group of people
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