



Scripture Union

TOP TIPS

FOR WELCOMING
GEN ALPHA & GEN Z SEEKERS
AT YOUR CHURCH

ARE YOU
REVIVAL
READY?

God is on the move across the land, so be aware and have your eyes open for the seekers and the hungry.

If you haven't had a child or young person turn up at your church yet, that doesn't mean you won't! And so it is great to be prepared and to think through, as a church, how you would welcome and follow up with any young 'turner-uppers'.

Over the next few pages, you'll find some helpful **Top Tips** from the Scripture Union team.

These tips focus on helping your church make the most of interactions with young 'turner-uppers'.

With millions of under-18s not in church, SU's primary mission is helping churches reach out and build authentic, faith-nurturing relationships with the children and young people in their communities. Visit su.org.uk/revealingjesus to find out how we can provide one-to-one support for you in that vital mission. And don't miss our online [Resource Centre](#), packed with tried and tested digital and print resources to equip you.



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TIP ONE

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TIP ONE – PRAYER

- ★ As a church, pray together and pray individually, involving everyone from the youngest to the oldest. Pray that you would be open and welcoming to those who are walking through the doors of the church.
- ★ Commit to fast and pray for children and young people in your area. Ask that God would continue what he is doing across the nation and that more of the younger generation would encounter him (*2 Chronicles 7:14*).
- ★ Rejoice over the prodigals who are coming home!



TIP ONE – PRAYER

- ★ Pray for the church to respond to the call to mission. Ask that the children, young people and young adults in your congregation would have courage and creativity when inviting their peers to church (*Matthew 9:37,38, Luke 10:2*).
- ★ Pray, too, for courage, inspiration, God-anointed opportunity and leading for people of all ages to invite the youngest generations to church.

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*You will seek me and
find me when you seek
me with all your heart.*

Jeremiah 29:13



TIP TWO

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TIP TWO – SAFEGUARDING

- ★ It is important that, within your safeguarding policy and procedures, you have considered the scenario of a child or young person turning up unaccompanied to a Sunday service. This is quite different from having a closed space for a kids' club or youth group.
- ★ If a child or young person under the age of 18 arrives without a responsible adult, connect them as swiftly as possible with somebody within the children's, youth or ministry team who is cleared to work safely with children and young people. Find out if a parent or guardian is aware that they are there, and discern whether you need to make contact for consent if they are likely to come back.



TIP TWO – SAFEGUARDING

- ★ Ensure that your whole church are aware of what is expected of them around children and young people, particularly if someone under 18 turns up without their parent or guardian.
- ★ It is a good idea to create an effective culture of safeguarding among the church family and congregation as a whole. Chat to your Church Safeguarding Officer (or your denominational advisor), or reach out to [thirtyone:eight](#), who have plenty of great resources to encourage whole church engagement, including promoting ‘Safeguarding Sunday’ annually.

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*...not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. **Philippians 2:4***



TIP THREE

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TIP THREE – WELCOMING

- ★ Appoint and equip the right team for welcoming people at church services and drop-ins – ideally individuals with strong interpersonal skills who can discern if a new person would like to engage in conversation or simply be shown a seat (*see safeguarding section*).
- ★ Ensure that the welcome is as much for children and young people as it is for adults, whether they arrive as a family, unaccompanied or with a group of friends. You could consider having a welcome pack with appropriate activities and treats in for during and after the service.



TIP THREE – WELCOMING

- ★ At the end of the service, work out if you need to reconnect with the child, young person or family, or whether that has already been taken on by someone within the children's, youth or ministry team.
- ★ Be ready with some appropriate questions that will help you understand the child or young person (as well as considering safeguarding). For example: 'Have you been to church before?', 'What brings you here this morning?', 'Does anybody at home know you are here?', 'Do you have any questions that I could help you with?'

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Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7 (ESV)



TIP FOUR

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TIP FOUR – BIBLES

- ★ Buy children's/youth/young adult's Bibles (or copies of Mark's Gospel) to give out to those who might not have one. Consider also including an indication of what to read, or a reading plan, to help them explore God's Word effectively. Scripture Union's [*So What Next?*](#) resource is a great guide to have to hand for new Christians.
- ★ Be ready to explore the Bible, either in a group setting or in a one-to-one meeting (ensuring that you've considered your safeguarding policy and practices).

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Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105 (ESV)



TIP FIVE

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TIP FIVE – VISIBILITY

- ★ Have you considered how well signposted your church is, both within your local community and online? For children and young people, the internet is as much a source of information as the real world, so it is good to ensure that this virtual welcome and signposting is relevant for people of all ages.
- ★ Children and young people spend the majority of their waking time in school, so it is worth considering your relationship with any nearby schools and how visible you are there.
- ★ Here are some great questions to ask, as you consider how easy it is for somebody to ‘stumble’ through your doors:
 - ★ Are your service times clear?
 - ★ Do you have external notice boards? If so, how helpful are they for a young person trying to connect with the church?



TIP FIVE – VISIBILITY

- ★ Is your building open for drop-in any other time during the week? (See *Safeguarding section*.)
 - ★ Is there a way for people to get in touch to find out more or ask for prayer?
 - ★ Is there a clear invitation for those who would like to find out more?
- ★ Setting up a QR code on your notice board linking to your website is a great way of helping others to connect with you.

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...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



AND REMEMBER...

Children and young people's hearts are being stirred by God right now, and many are curious to find out more about Jesus. However, for every child who has the opportunity, courage, desire and initiative to 'turn up' at church, there will be many who don't.

That's why it's so important that our churches respond to the great commission and **GO** to where the youngest generations are. It's vital that we step out, make connections and provide opportunities for the children and young people in our communities to explore the Bible, respond to Jesus' invitation of life in all its fullness, then grow as a disciple.

At Scripture Union, we have the experience and resources to help you do just that. Visit su.org.uk/revealingjesus to find out more.



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A young man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue hoodie and a black cap with an orange strap, is looking down at an open book he is holding. He is standing against a light-colored, textured wall. The background is slightly out of focus.

TOP TIPS

For more help being
'revival' ready, visit
su.org.uk/revivalready



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