



21st Century Evangelicals

A snapshot of the beliefs and habits
of evangelical Christians in the UK

Do we value education?

Questions for discussion

We hope you've been able to read our recent report *Do we value education?* This handout suggests some questions and discussion starters that can be used by small groups. You might want to start by praying together and reading a Bible passage such as Deuteronomy 6:6-9 or Proverbs 2:1-11.

1. What was your experience of education?

- What were the best things about your education? What did you value?
- What could have been better?
- Do you have any regrets about your education?
 - Was your education privileged or a hard struggle against the odds?
 - Are you still learning?
 - Did you encounter God during your time in education? If yes, where and how?

2. What do parents want from schools?

(If you are a parent, think about the choices you made. If you are not a parent, think of what you might have chosen, or what was chosen for your education.)

- Why did/do your children go to the particular schools they attended?
- Were you willing or able to pay for higher quality education for your children? Is this a good thing to do?
- Did you pray about the education of your children? If yes, how did God answer?
- Did you feel the local schools were good enough for your children? What were your concerns, if any?
- Should Christian leaders and workers always send their children to the local school? Does this increase opportunity for mission in the community?
- What would you expect from a school in terms of ethos, discipline and the way they treat children?
- What would you expect from a school in terms of religious education?
- What do you think about church schools and independent Christian schools?

Questions for discussion

3. What's the point of education?

- How important is academic excellence in schooling? What else is important?
- Do you think that one of the purposes of education is to shape a worldview which corresponds to Christian values and biblical understanding? If so, how can schools put this into practice?

4. Further & higher education (for those aged 16+)

- Should top universities try to recruit more students from less privileged backgrounds?
- What are the alternatives to university for less academic students?
- What are your experiences and thoughts about student loans and tuition fees?
- What advice would you give to a young Christian going to university?

5. Teachers and the issues they face

- What do you think are the main pressures faced by teachers today?
- How can Christians support the work that teachers do in schools and colleges?
- Do you pray regularly for teachers and others who work in education? What would encourage you to do so?
- How should we be praying and practically caring for those in education in our churches?

6. Opportunities for your church to get involved in education

- Does your church have links with particular local schools? If so are you making a positive Christian influence?
- Does your church see the children and families in local schools as an opportunity for mission? What does, or could, this mean in practice?
- Have you been, or thought of becoming, a school governor?
- Are there opportunities for Christians to get involved in new educational institutions such as academies and free schools, or to set up new forms of Christian education? Should Christians be pursuing these opportunities?

