Session 01.02 - Parenting in a World of Many Voices

Lab: Parenting in a World of Many Voices
Date: 7 October 2026
Room: Poolside room downstairs
Facilitator: Jo Haaijer with OneHope
Note-taker: Rachelle Neal
Approximate number of participants: 10

1. Purpose of today's session

Parents have always faced the challenge of raising children well. But today, children are surrounded by an unprecedented number of voices and influences—from friends and school to social media, culture, and the online world. How can parents remain a meaningful and trusted voice in their children's lives? Together, we will explore how parents build strong relationships, navigate difficult conversations, and help their children grow in faith, confidence and wisdom.

2. Starting point

We looked at survey results about the global youth culture**.**

3. Key insights

- We noted 4 major tensions revealed through the survey
    - Religious attitudes vs religious behaviours - far more claim to be Christian than the percentage that live out the faith
    - Experiences and struggles - in particular in the area of mental health; young people in Europe are struggling with their mental health
    - The influence of the church is low, but parents have more influence than they realize
    - Parents are the top voices for young people, but are not confident in doing so.
- 67% of parents feel they are responsible for their children's faith, but only 25% are helping their children learn about Jesus at home
- When asked what parents want help with, it is other things than discipling (ie. discipling their kids)

4. Challenges identified

- Parents are a key voice into their children's lives but they don't feel confident in doing so

- Parents aren't discipling their children
- Parents have other desires than learning to disciple their children
- Even when parents "do everything right", children still make the choice - need to be sensitive to this

5. Ideas and possible solutions

- Churches could offer trainings to meet parents' current desires and then bridge into topics that help them disciple their children.
- If we as churches and church leaders believe that parents are the main ones to disciple their children, we should consider our programs and structures. How are we creating space for parents and encouraging to disciple their children?

6. Examples, projects and useful resources

- OneHope (onehope.net)
- thegenerationalawakening.com
    - Chat Matters game board for fostering conversations within families

7. Three key takeaways

1. Be a model to younger families about how to parent (invite them into your home to experience it)
2. Spend time with your kids (and other children); be generous with your time and listen to them
3. Make resources that could help known.