



Protecting Children From Exposure

Learn how to protect your children from the “spotlight” that ministry life can place on them and help them feel safe, unseen, and free to be themselves.

Church leader families can feel exposed. Some liken it to being on a pedestal or in a goldfish bowl, and even though it can result from the congregation’s love and affection, it can be hard. For your children and teens, it can feel like everyone’s watching them and has an opinion. When you cover them from this spotlight, you protect their sense of self, help them cope with the reality of ministry life and give them the space to be themselves and build authentic, life-giving relationships with those around them.

When children are uncovered – when they are pointed out or information about them exposed to all – they become vulnerable. Even if they enjoy being in the spotlight now, there will be times when they just won’t want to be there. We can cover them from that so they can enjoy the safety of the shadows.

- Don’t make them the face of your family
- Plan how to respond to the congregation’s enquiries
- Don’t tell stories about them in sermons
- Asking permission?
- How to tell stories so they are still covered

01 Discussion questions

- Do you think your children feel a spotlight on them?
- How could you use a story about your family without exposing them?

- How could you reply to one of these questions:
 - How did Harry's exams go?
 - What was Elizabeth doing out in town so late yesterday?
 - Which school will Luka be going to?
 - Why isn't Emma in the worship band - she sings so well!

SPACE FOR YOUR THOUGHTS
