

# Tips for Sharing with your Church Community

## Approach your pastor

When you ask to share, make sure they know it's not just your testimony you're sharing, but you want to engage the Church with the mission of out-of-home care.

Ask for the opportunity to increase awareness, not just for support for your family, but also for others to see there's a possibility of them stepping into Care.

## Passages that may help:

James 1:27

*'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.'*

Psalm 68:6

*'God sets the lonely in families'*

Psalm 82:3

*'Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.'*

Deuteronomy 10:18-19

*'He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love [them too], for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.'*

## Share the need

The very broad brushstrokes stats we use in churches are:

50,000 kids in care in Australia

23,000 carers

1.6 million Christians

(ie. we need more carers)

## Tell a story

Stories help people relate. Telling just stats is boring, and will allow people to disconnect from real lives being affected – stories help people see real people and real situations that are changed as we respond to the need. But...

## Careful to protect your kids in care by not oversharing

Confidentiality is important. Your foster kids' stories belong to them. If they're keen for you to share something, that's great, but if it'll expose them, find someone else's story to share.

You can always share stories from afar that you've heard about, from online, or even stories that've been publicly released on social media or on a podcast.

## Don't tell them it'll be easy

Be honest that it's challenging but rewarding, and let them know you need their support. Let them know we're better doing 'hard' together.

## Offer to answer questions after the service

## Connect them with an ARK info session if they want to find out more

These are regularly listed at [arkaustralia.org](http://arkaustralia.org)