



Childcare Options for Groups

One of the essential components of a successful Community Group is ensuring that the children within a particular group are cared for and looked after well. We want to offer some ideas and different ways that you can navigate this element of your group time.

One of the ways that you can create an atmosphere that allows for community is to take a typical four-week month and break it into four individual weeks, giving each person an opportunity to care for the children in the group.

For example, the first night of the month that you meet, the women in the group will stay with the children, giving the men an opportunity to discuss that week's sermon or topic. Even while the women are with the children, they have an opportunity to discuss the sermon and have a time of fellowship together.

The second week of the month the men would stay with the children, while the women have an opportunity to meet together to discuss that week's sermon. This gives the men an opportunity to spend time together with their kids, while the women are able to have time uninterrupted to grow together.

During the third week you could set aside as a fellowship night where everyone, including children, would stay together either for a shared meal or the group discussion. This is also a great time to share communion as a group, and begin modeling that for the children.

The last night of the month would be when the moms and dads in the group all contribute to pay someone to watch over the kids so that everyone can have a time of discussion together. This can be an older teenage sibling, or someone that you trust outside of the group.

This model offers an opportunity for both men and women to have time centered around them as individuals as well as a group. Often discussions can be tailored to the specific needs of a particular gender. This also allows for times when the family can remain together, so that discipleship within families is supported by the group. Lastly, on the weeks when a babysitter is there, it gives parents (and the group as a whole) the chance to be together for the discussion.

Another option for groups is to utilize those in the group who have teenagers needing to earn some extra money to watch the children in the group. This will create an opportunity for the older children to help shepherd the younger ones.

This particular option can be done outside at a park, while the kids play and the student is supervising that play time. It can also be helpful to have a designated space indoors for the kids to play where games and activities can be set up.