



5 Childcare Solutions for Small Groups

1. The “Swap” Solution

After everyone enjoys some food, fun & fellowship together on the front end of your small group, separate the adults of your group into two parts when you get to the study/ discussion portion of your gathering (example: either men & women or these 4 people & those 4 people). While one half of the adults takes 30 or so minutes to watch the video curriculum, talk & pray, the other half is watching the kids, drinking coffee and eating dessert in a separate area. After the allotted time, the two adult groups swap places.

2. The “Rotate” Solution

Rotate two parents or members out of the group on a weekly basis to provide childcare in another room. This is best done in pairs to provide company for the adults and to add accountability for the kids. Never rotate out a married couple, but instead send two men or two women so that relationships are built.

3. The “Trade” Solution

If your group meets on Tuesday and you know of another group that meets on Thursday, offer to watch their children while they meet & ask them to do the same for your group.

4. The “Pool Your Money Together” Solution

Each couple or parent can bring a couple of dollars to combine with everyone else’s. Then (even if it’s just for one hour during the study/ discussion time) hire a quality childcare worker to look after the kids in a separate area while the adults enjoy the discussion with minimal interruption, and no one goes broke.

5. The “All Family Group” Solution

In an “all family group,” the children are allowed to play in the same room as the meeting. This works best when the children are small and are not likely to catch much of what is being said. Or, kids that are elementary age and older can participate with the group. The positive of this is that families will grow together, but the challenge is that you will need to limit discussion time. The key here is to create a flexible plan in advance that is tailored around the kids. Also, if you have older kids or trusted teens in the group, you can give them incentives to help play with and lead the younger kids in an activity during the discussion time, which may help to eliminate some distractions.