



COMMUNITYGROUPS

theCHURCH OF ARIZONA

Real Life. Real People. Real Jesus.

Family Groups

Both On-Campus and Home Groups that encourage families with children have challenges that are unique to groups without children. The following below are ideas that encourage families to establish structure while still encouraging family discipleship. Try some of these with your group and collectively come up with a schedule and routine that best suits your group and its members. The **goal** is to maintain a **balance** between including children and establishing that groups mean biblical community, while still allowing time and space for adults and parents to form real connections and bonds of relational intimacy with each other.

Group Night Ideas:

- Women watch the kids while the men meet, and the next week the men watch the kids while the women meet. This is a great way to do BreakOuts and encourage an opportunity for members to “go deep” about their walk.
- Family Fun Night! Plan a night of games, activities or crafts that include both kids and adults alike!
- On a rotational basis assign parents to “Kid Duty” that group night. Rotate through all adults and then start the cycle over

again. This means all parents take turns watching the kids while the other parents can stay engaged in the adult discussions.

- All parents chip in a few dollars each group meeting to help pay for a sitter to watch the kids at the group meeting or off-site at another group member's home nearby. *Be sure to also include nights where families are encouraged to be together for family discipleship.*
- When the weather is nice, move outside! Plan a small activity for children to do while parents can casually have conversation at a table. This works great at parks and playgrounds too!
- Family Worship Nights! This can look like lots of things: Worshiping together around songs that families know from home or church. Having the children 'play' children's instruments while singing along to a children's themed video. Or, having the children do a small activity, art or craft project while the adults spend time in Worship.

These ideas are meant to inspire you as a leader to get creative with your group and the family dynamic. Our children are a blessing and not a burden and by including them in our groups we are showing them that they are valued. We are emphasizing the importance of community and Christ centered relationships. Whatever route your group takes to include families, we strongly encourage that you pray with and for the children in your group. This is a great way to model to them the importance of prayer while still including them in the group dynamic. ***After all, this is their group too!***