

DOING HOME GROUPS WITH KIDS

Creating healthy gospel community and groups are the heartbeat of our church. The meat and potatoes. The bread and butter. The icing on the cake. *Sorry, I must be hungry.* In short, gospel community is vital.

But what about the groups that have couples with kids? How do we grow closer to God and closer together with a slew of children running amuck? Let's be honest. Trying to participate in anything *remotely* organized with a bunch of little humans can feel as hopeless as brushing your teeth while eating Oreos. So let's get practical. There are a buffet of great options to choose from.

Make it happen. The one and only rule: *It doesn't have to be perfect.* Okay? Now repeat that to yourself a few more times. We've had seasons of bottles and burp rags, Barbies and Batman. Do yourself a favor and let go of control, embrace the beautiful chaos of a fleeting season, and be thankful for the heroes in your tribe who will pray for you, make you food, and rock your babies to sleep.

Make a trade. Simply take turns watching the kids. If you have 10 trusted adults in your group, you're only up to bat every tenth meeting. That's more than fair! Some groups trade childcare with other groups. We have friends in another group who alternate having guys' nights and girls' nights. Even date nights! You make the rules. Feel empowered to get creative.

Make an investment. Bite the bullet and pay someone you trust to love on your little ones. This has been what has worked for many groups. Options galore exist. Each couple figures their situation out. Couples can pair up and go in together on a babysitter. A family friend wrangles all the munchkins at one couple's house, while the adults meet at another down the road. It's kind of like the glorious kid vs. grownup tables at Thanksgiving. *For a moment, there is peace on earth.*

Make it fun! Once in a while, have all the kids and adults together for a family night. Grill burgers, swing kids, and play horseshoes. Serve meals together at your local shelter with the kids. Go swimming. Go crazy. *Do life together!*

Make disciples. Recruit a responsible older sibling to oversee the circus going on in the backyard or another part of the house. Dub them with the all-powerful *leader status*. Build them up as a mentor to the younger ones and prepare to watch them shine. Check out a few resources below.

Kid-Friendly Resources

Looking for a resource on how to talk about Jesus with the kids that are gathered?

- **The Bible App for Kids!** Go to this link and see if this might be a helpful resource
 - <https://bibleappforkids.com/parents/videos>
- **Superbook.** Go to this link to see the 14 Bible story videos your kids can watch for free and then use the available discussion guides to talk about it after the video. If your kids love it, you can buy more videos to watch as well. There is more content available in the app.
 - Watch Episodes Online: http://us-en.superbook.cbn.com/all-videos?filter=full_episodes#X
 - Episode Discussion Guides: <http://www.cbn.com/superbook/faq-episodes.aspx>
 - Superbook Kids Bible App: <http://www.cbn.com/superbook/superbook-free-kids-bible-app.aspx>
- **Have another great idea?** How are you making it work for kids in your group? Email us as smallgroups@cpmodesto.org to let us know so we can share other great ideas!