

How are you getting parents involved in Small Groups?

We have needs just like every other church across America. We have weekends when we can't open rooms too. Please don't think we have it all figured out when it comes to involving parents in small groups.

We have become more intentional about assigning kids to a small group. We want them to have the same group and the same leader each time they come. Kids in small groups "**Know**" where they belong and who they belong to when they come to church.

So you ask where do the parents come into play? Our ratio goal is 10-12 children per 1 adult. We have the same recruiting problems as you do. What we have found is that we have kids who are in small groups but with **NO leader**. The old saying "too many kids and not enough leaders." These kids are going home to mom and dad complaining that they have a group but not a Leader. These parents are calling us asking if they can serve and become their child's small group leader! It's a subtle change but our parents are becoming more aware of our needs from their own children. They may not listen to us, but they WILL listen to their kids!

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What's so important about a kindergarten small group?

Kindergarten is a great time to introduce small groups to the children. Kindergarteners especially love and need to feel secure and safe. In this safe and secure environment, they are more open to learning. They also benefit by experiencing being a part of a “family” when they are in small group. The children learn to trust their Small Group Leader as he/she shares Biblical truths and life application (**know**).

As the year passes and they grow and mature, they begin to share freely in this group as they get to know each other better. By connecting to their Small Group leader and each other, these boys and girls will form bonds that hopefully will **grow** throughout the year and continue to grow as these children move up through the grades together.

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What's so important about a 5th grade small group?

In 5th grade we have gender specific small groups. We have found that splitting up very beneficial to sharing and growing deeper. Most 5th grade girls are open up. Most 5th grade boys clam up. I have seen this first hand when walking and talking with them on the weekends. Girls will sit down and have a conversation with you. Boys will give you one word as they walk by.

To complete this small group picture we also have the same gender leaders to help these groups “**Grow**” even deeper. Male leaders with boys and female leaders with girls makes a huge difference in the sharing and talking within the groups. They share things that I believe may not come out with girls listening. I also believe having “male only” volunteer opportunities is important. It gives us, as a ministry, a chance to say “this role is for a male only.” It really does make a difference with men serving in your ministry. These men act as the daddy's of the room “**Showing**” the boys what it looks like to respect others and to serve others.

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