



BEST PRACTICES: Montie and Amy Koch

“How to Incorporate Kids into Your Small Group Meetings”

Background of our Group

- Families with older kids/teens.
- Began August 2015 with 4 families
- 12 families with over 30 kids/young adults
- Group meets twice a month
- Rotate among 3-4 host homes, meeting outside frequently.

Why Inter-generational Groups

- Mentoring for the Christian life comes from parents. Joshua 24:14-15
- Children influenced by other adults. It takes a village.... Titus 2:1-10
- God will use the child-like faith of the children. Matthew 19:13-14
- Wisdom passed down through the generations. Psalm 78:1-8

Perceptions (Excuses) of Kids in Group Life

- The need to “Manage” the kids. (aka discipline)
- Short attention spans.
- You must “Dumb Down” the lesson.
- The parents need a break from the madness.

Structure / Format of our Group

- Fellowship time and meal
- Study / Lesson / Worship
- Adult breakout / Prayer
- Total time: 2.5 hours +/- Sundays 5pm-730pm



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Strategies and Ideas to involve kids in the group lesson time / group life

- Seek to involve the children at their level of ability, personality, or giftedness.
 - Older children: Read advanced Bible passages
 - Younger children: Read simple Bible passages
 - Worship/Prayer/Drama/Testimony/Leadership (ask in advance)
- Seek to involve the family in discipleship outside of the group.
 - A Bible Book Series, ie James, allows the family to come prepared.
 - Group “Homework” as a family. Activities as part of the lesson.
 - EX: Heroes of the Faith – Hebrews 11
 - Family presentation of topic, verse, or character
- Fun activities as part of the group time. Before and after lesson.
 - Helps greatly with the attention span during lesson.
 - Play time: games, sports, swimming, etc at host home.
 - Allows time for the adults to fellowship together (kids may be in and out)
- Holiday fun.
 - Christmas party w/ Christmas story
 - July 4th Celebration w/ Freedom in Christ
- Fun times to celebrate life as a family. Activities for all ages. (A great family vacation)
 - EX: The Cereal Bowl
 - EX: Christmas white elephant gift exchange; Christmas song trivia game
- Lecture style probably will not work
 - Knowledge questions / Application questions / Group Discussions
 - Break-out Group activities. Q&As / Passage discussions
 - Other
- Mission involvement / reports.
 - Family members report to group on their involvement in missions.
 - Bring in missionaries to speak who have a connection to a family in the group.
 - Missions as a group: FTH, Cornerstone, HAC, etc.