



This document is a collection of ideas for small groups who have children. It's clear in Scripture that we should be teaching and modeling what it is to be a follower of Jesus, to our children (see Deut. 6:4-9, Ps. 127, Prov. 14:26, Eph. 6:4). A part of this is them seeing us learn about Jesus and learn to obey him; and they in turn do the same!

The suggestions below are just that...suggestions. Please don't think these are "prescriptions"; they are "descriptions" of what could happen in your group. Use this document as a starter for conversation within your group. Model well....our kids are watching us and imitating us! May we be disciples worth imitating!

- Define the expectations clearly from the start.
- High School / Middle school aged kids really can be included in many of the studies and discussion adults are having. At the same time, being in an "adult group" could be intimidating and they could feel fear of "looking stupid" or something like that. So you could do a couple of these:
 - Encourage them to ask questions
 - Adults be willing to be vulnerable and willing to ask questions which will help encourage them to do the same. You will establish the norm by your behavior.
- Don't be afraid to ask the older kids what's going on their lives. Conversation is a great way to listen and connect with them. Maybe learn some names of popular video games or find out what sports they like to play.
- Maybe let the older kid(s) help lead a bit during the study. Allow them to read discussion questions or read the passage out loud. Of course, this can't be forced but the opportunity can be extended.
- For groups with smaller age groups, you could pick a "theme" for one group night every now and then. The key is that everyone get's involved. Make it a truly inter-generational night.
- Split up the group times - some of the time everyone's together and then at some point the kids go to another part of the house while the adults get to learn/discuss as adults. *A note on this: it can be a temptation for us adults to use our kids as shields (often subconsciously) against transparent conversation that produces growth in our relationship with God and others. Please be aware and guard against this!*
- Print off coloring pages and have younger kids color on the floor while the adults read and discuss the passage for the night. The kids will listen - and learn - whether they are looking at the adults or not!
- Use stories - that go along with the lesson for the night. This would require a bit of preparation but not tons. Sometimes you could even have the younger kids act out or retell the story - before you know it, the whole group has Jesus stories memorized and ready to share with others!