

# LIFEGROUPS

## LEADER RESOURCES



### HANDLING CHILDCARE

There are many blessings that come from leading a Life Group... unfortunately trying to figure out childcare is not one of them. Figuring out these details can be a logistical nightmare and quickly drain your enthusiasm for ministry. That's why we highly recommend that you don't bear this responsibility alone. Talk with your group assign someone else to help figure out these details on a weekly basis. To help get the conversation started we have compiled some of the best solutions to this problem that we've seen through the years. Hopefully some of these are helpful.

#### Have the Kids Join In.

Some groups are content to embrace the chaos and allow kids of all ages to be present at the group! The pro of this option is that families have more "hang out" time together and become familiar with one another quickly. It is also free, and often fun. The con is that the chaos which ensues makes it difficult to have deep conversations and take relationships to the next level in the context of the group meeting itself

#### Share Babysitting Costs

Probably the most frequent option that groups use is to share the cost of a babysitter at each meeting. There are many within the Canyon Hills community who appreciate babysitting jobs. The pros of this option are that it is easy to simply transfer responsibility to a separate caregiver, allowing every member of the group to fully focus during the life group meeting. The cons are that it can become expensive over time and you can find yourself in a bind if the babysitter cannot make it on a particular week. Sometimes it can also be difficult to find a babysitter at all.

#### Rotate Caregiving

Members can rotate caregiving from week to week, meaning that a different person or couple would be on babysitting duty each week. The pros of this are that it is free and it allows group members to get to know one another's children - not a bad thing! The cons are that some group members might be reluctant to watch children - this is especially the case in married couples groups, where some of the group members might have no children at all. In addition, a major con is that the entire group is never together - every week someone must miss out who is on babysitting duty.

#### Separate Babysitting Home

Childcare is taking place in a home other than the one the small group is meeting in. This home should be no more than a three minute drive from the home where the life group is meeting. The pros are obviously, Parents can stay completely focused during the entire life group experience. The cons are that some parents will not be comfortable in the group unless their children are in the same building where the group is meeting. Please note it is important that there is a quick way to get a hold of the caregiver in the other home in case of emergency.

#### Older Siblings Watch Kids

Obviously, this only works if you have children old enough and mature enough to care for the younger ones. The pros are that childcare is free. Some groups have got creative with this option and have the older kids prepare a lesson and games. It allows the older kids to take ownership in the group as well as begin to learn how to care for others. The cons is that it's difficult to find a home that has space for a separate area for the kids to meet.