



## **IDEAS/SAMPLE SCHEDULE FOR KIDS**

### **HOW SHOULD A COMMUNITY HANDLE KIDS?**

Creating a space where kids are not only cared for but are also growing in Christ can be a difficult task for a Community. Leaders should be mindful of how they are meeting and what they are doing to include kids in the lifeblood of their Community.

With that in mind, below are a few ideas of how to handle this.

#### **Idea #1 - Create a meeting rhythm that takes the burden off weekly children's activities.**

It's not uncommon for a Community or huddle of believers to have dozens of kids. Trying to meet each week and accommodate the different schedules of each child can create an exhausting rhythm.

Instead, consider having the freedom to stop gathering your whole Community each week. By creating different huddles, you can create a microchurch/Community rhythm that's sustainable and life-giving. Here's an example:

- Gather at minimum monthly for a Family Meal. Once a month create a space for your whole community to gather to eat, fellowship, and worship together. This is a great place to incorporate your kids.
- Gather 1-2 a month at a Third Space. This is a space where you do life together and can invite non-believers into check out what you're doing. An effective Third Place is *neutral* ground that is informal and non-committal. It *naturally* fits into the rhythms of your non-Christian friends' lives, and you can do it *regularly*. You could also use one of these times to serve in a Third Space and invite families.
- Gather weekly in deeper huddles of 2-4 people. This is the place to study the Bible deeply and to be known deeply by another. By breaking down your Community into smaller huddles you create true discipleship moments and accountability.

This is just an example, but it showcases the freedom and flexibility that exists for leaders. The above example still hits on the 3 C's (communion, community,

co-mission), while freeing up families. A Community doesn't have to be complex – it's thinking outside the box we have built for ourselves, and asking the question “how do we obey what God has commanded?” Whether you're leading a Community or attending one, I want to challenge you to consider – how are our practices fostering obedience to Jesus?

## **Idea #2 - Take turns leading the kids in a separate space.**

Maybe weekly gatherings are still the best idea for your Community. Great! But don't simply pass the kids off to a babysitter. Think about truly operating as a spiritual family and taking turns leading your own kids. Here's an example schedule:

- Gathering Activity
  - Coloring
  - Activity Sheets
  - Reading Children's Books
- Simple Bible Story (Jesus Storybook Bible is a great resource)
- Time of Prayer
  - Have kids share things they are grateful for in simple one sentence thank you prayers
  - Have kids share attributes of God and pray in response thanking God for who he is
  - Have kids share needs of themselves and those around them and lead them in a simple time of intercession prayer
- Directed Play (come up with a creative idea)
- Free Play
  - Toys
  - Puzzles
  - Board games
  - Watercolor painting
  - Coloring
  - Play-doh
- Story Time (simultaneous with free play)
  - Read children's books to kids interested