

FAMILY INTENTIONAL TRACKS

for Co-ed LifeGroups

Handout

1. How is our LG intentionally building with the kids/students/families in our group?
2. How can we come alongside our parents to support/champion their role as the primary-disciple maker of their kids?
3. How can we as a group model what it looks like to be a Jesus-Centered Family on Mission (or a group that is following Jesus together?)

Our goal is for the kids and students in your LifeGroups to feel connected to the people in the group. We don't want them to view LifeGroup as "something that mom and dad do," but it's something that *we* do as a family. So even if your LifeGroup model means leaving the kids at home or with a babysitter, what other ways is your LifeGroup getting the kids/students around the other kids/students/adults in the LifeGroup so that we build a culture of this is *our* LifeGroup and not just mom and dads.

To figure out what this looks like with your LifeGroup, consult these two exercises below, preferably with your LifeGroup coach or pastor.

PART 1 - QUIZ

- 1. How many kids are in your LG? Generally, what are their ages/milestone breakdowns?**
 - Less than 5 kids in LG --- if this option, Tracks 1-2 will be the best fit
 - 5-10 kids in LG --- if this option, Tracks 1-3 will be the best fit
 - Over 10 kids in LG --- if this option, Track 3 will be the best fit
- 2. Where do you meet? What's your space look like?**
 - Small house - if this option, Track 1 will be the best fit
 - Big house - if this option, Tracks 1-3 will be the best fit
 - Multiple locations nearby - if this option, Tracks 2-3 will be the best fit
- 3. What is your group dynamic right now?**
 - Co-ed but functionally single-gendered Group Times
 - Fully co-ed Group Time
 - Co-ed but functionally single-gendered w one gender "watching" kids
 - Co-ed but functionally single-gendered w one gender "teaching" kids

*LGs with older kids should consider meeting on Wednesday to transition them to Students

**Tracks 2-3 - LGs with younger kids should consider meeting earlier (5-6:30) to accommodate for bedtimes

PART 2 - TRACKS

After taking the quiz, which of the following tracks below is the best fit for your LifeGroup?

TRACK 1

Co-ed Group Time w parents finding childcare

- Pro: This can accommodate lots of kids and lots of ages.
- Con: Childcare costs. Parents can also “swap” week to week to avoid childcare costs, but parents miss out. Children aren’t integrated into Group Time.
 - What LG is this option best for?
 - A large group of kids too spread out in various ages and/or families too spread out in Cola
 - What does Family Intentional look like in LG?
 - LG has rhythms outside of Group Time to involve kids (post-church brunch, monthly potluck night, LG family-centric rhythm)
 - LGs potentially start a “childcare pool” to offset the cost of childcare
 - LG talks about kids during Review the Mission, ask parents how they can help/pray
 - Family Discipleship provides resources for parents such as Family LifeGroup Guide and RightNow Media

TRACK 2

Co-ed but functionally single-gendered with one gender “watching” kids and still having Group Time. The “watching kids group” will likely have a shorter group time.

- Pro: Kids have intentional face time w others in LG
- Con: Less focused Group Time with whoever is watching kids. Group Time is shorter to accommodate for bedtimes.
 - What LG is this option best for? Groups w fewer kids and/or avg age of kids is younger/same stage
 - What does Family Intentional look like in LG?
 - LG builds relationships naturally w kids during Group Time
 - Family Discipleship provides resources for parents such as Family LifeGroup Guide and RightNow Media
 - If kids are older, potentially sitting in on certain elements of Group Time

TRACK 3

Co-ed but functionally single-gendered with one gender “teaching” kids at one location, swapping week-to-week with the other gender. “Teaching kids group” time lasts 60-90 minutes, while the other gender has normal group time, ideally at a second location.

- Pro: kids have intentional face time with others in LG and can work thru the weekly Family LG guide or RightNow Media
- Con: Teaching kids Group Time is shorter to accommodate for bedtimes.
 - What LG is this option best for? LOTS of kids of various ages, and the affordability of childcare is not an option
 - What does Family Intentional look like in LG?
 - LG has a planned Group Time primarily for kids w resources that Midtown potentially provides/recommends

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