

HOW TO HANDLE CHILDCARE



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BELOW ARE A SERIES OF OPTIONS YOU CAN USE FOR HANDLING CHILDCARE NEEDS IN YOUR LIFE GROUP:

1. **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.
2. **Share Babysitting Costs at each Meeting.** The pro of this option is that it is easy to simply transfer responsibility to a separate caregiver, allowing every member of the group to fully focus during the small 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.
3. **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. The cons are that some group members might be reluctant to watch children (or even bad at it) - perhaps 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 to be on babysitting duty.
4. **Men & Women Split.** One innovative model has been to meet three times in one month - during week one the entire family meets (and the chaos is embraced!); during week two the women only meet; during week three the men only meet. The fourth week is a party week. The pros of this are many: families get to know each other and hang out together; the men and the women get to develop deep and meaningful relationships with one another; there is good variety of experience over the course of the month; and no money is spent. The main con is that this system of scheduling can be tricky for some people.
5. **Have Older Kids Care for Younger Kids.** Obviously, this only works if you have children old enough to care for the younger ones.
6. If none of these ideas (or your own) seem to work please let your Coach know.