

HOW TO LEAD GROUPS WITH KIDS

Here at Sandals Church, we love kids, but leading a group with kids presents some unique challenges. That's why we are providing this amazing guide of tools and best practices to help you involve the kids in your Community Group. If you do not want to involve your kids in your group, you don't have to. This is a completely optional guide designed to give you all the tips and tricks you need to lead a group with kids and it's as easy as 1, 2, 3.

TOGETHER TIME 5-15 MINUTES

This is a time at the beginning of your "official" group time where you gather kids and adults together in one place to ask, "What was the best part of your week?" This simple question lets you peer into the lives of everyone in your group and helps lay a foundation of relationship together.

KID TIME 5-15 MINUTES

Once everyone has had a chance to answer, we transition to separate spaces for kid time.

STEP 1: READ THE STORYBOOK TOGETHER

Each week we will provide you with a digital storybook that can be accessed here at SandalsKids.tv. This storybook is a refresher of the story the kids learned on the weekend and can be read to the group by a parent, sitter or an older child.

Pro Tip: If you are going to have a parent lead kid time, we have found it best that there is a rotation of parents leading so no one parent misses the first few minutes of their group time every week to lead the kids.

STEP 2: ASK THE GET REAL QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Each week the kids will receive a Get Real guide (that can also be found here at SandlasKids.tv) with a Get Real question, which is their action point from what they learned. If it makes sense for your group, you can have a parent, sitter or an older child ask the Get Real question and lead the kids through a discussion about it.

Pro Tip: If you or the parents in your group want to take a deeper dive into all of what Sandals Kids has to offer, you can stay connected and watch bonus content on Instagram, YouTube and Twitch at @sandalskids.

STEP 3: PRAY TOGETHER

While you certainly can take prayer requests from the kids and have them pray for each other, we suggest having a parent, sitter or an older child close the group in prayer before sending the kids to play time.

A sample prayer might sound something like, "Dear God, we pray that you work in us so what we learned today gets into our hearts and shows up in our lives through what we think, say and do. We love you and are thankful for what you've done for us. Please help us be real with ourselves, others and you. Amen."

PLAY TIME 30-60 MINUTES

We don't expect you to try to program or contain the kids in your group for the whole time that the adults are in group. That's why we suggest finishing with playtime. This time will look different for every group but we have found that kids that play together stay together.

That's it! You now have everything you need to lead a Community Group with kids. If you have any questions, you can email us at communitygroups@sandalschurch.com and may God bless you as you lead your household to be real with themselves, God and others.