

Family Friendly Life Communities

Roundtable Discussion with Leaders

12 June 2011

Challenges

- Age range of children – often needing to transition and re-evaluate as children grow
- Noise/chaos (must be able to tolerate these unavoidable realities—even enjoy them)
- Program? Babysitter? Asking older children to help?
- Illness in younger children may make consistent attendance difficult
- Right kind of space for the children is essential
- Tension felt re: need for “productivity”
- A critical mass of children is helpful rather than just a few
- Integration of new children needs to be intentional
- Special needs children require a different kind of intentionality

Strengths

- Intergenerational – singles and “empty nesters” often find these groups to be a good place for them to invest in families and their children
- Why not families? (lets inspire more “family friendly LCs)
- Investing in children
- “Teaching” moments
- Relationships between children – relationships often extend beyond LC nights
- Intentionality of spiritual growth at a young age – e.g. teaching commitment that goes beyond just needs being fulfilled
- It isn't just about me – adults & children

Resources

- Curriculum for children – Simone Arkininstall (simonne.arkinstall@verizon.net) offered to help connect groups with available resources
- Family Friendly LC's need to have a clear vision and group ownership of the strengths in order to best navigate the challenges
- Reasonable expectations need to be defined and voiced
- Children may need to be broken into different groups by age
- Parents can rotate teaching/watching the children; Fire & Gravity have been available as people resource for some LC's.
- Pastor Doug's 6/11/11 “discussion” paper on “LIFE Communities & Children: Various Approaches for Developing *Family-Friendly* LCs (LC Resources page on web)