

Groups

Childcare Guidelines

Children are a gift from the LORD, they are a reward from Him (Psalm 127:3). Our hope is to do our best to take care of the gifts the Lord has given us, while at the same time giving parents a chance to pursue enriching fellowship during our limited small group time. The childcare offered during Small Groups is **not a service of GFC**, but is rather **a combined effort of the parents** of individual groups to care for their children in the best way they see fit. The bottom line is that for practical and legal reasons, the **parents of a group are responsible for childcare in every facet**. Therefore, we offer guidelines/recommendations and not directives as to how each group is to structure their childcare. They are as follows:

1. Each Group that has childcare is to have a **volunteer Coordinator** (preferably not the Group Leader) who is to be responsible for administrating all the childcare needs of the Small Group.
2. Children age **11 and younger** can be part of the childcare. Babies younger than 7 months may stay with their parent(s) during the meetings if the Group Leader sees this as appropriate. Parent(s) may be asked by Coordinator to leave disruptive children at home for the well-being of the group as a whole.
3. **Caregivers are to be at least 13 years old** and would fit the criteria of someone that the parents would entrust with personal babysitting at their home. There are some babysitting trainings available online as well as at the Red Cross. A Group may need multiple sitters to properly care for each child, but such decisions and other judgment calls should be processed by the Coordinator and parents of the children.
4. Childcare workers are to be compensated **\$20-\$30 per night, consistent with what they would be paid for babysitting**. We ask that parents using childcare contribute \$3/child /night to a maximum of \$9/family/night. A family's inability to contribute should be handled by the Group Leader. Group Leaders and Host's can be exempt from paying as we want this to be a blessing for their leadership contribution. The Childcare Coordinator is to cover the difference paid to the Worker, keeping track of their expenses and submitting a reimbursement request to the Groups Admin at the end of the month (preferably).

If you have any questions, please give us a call or email to talk it through!