



Leading Elementary Online Small Groups

Be Present & Create A Safe Space

- ▶ **Be present:** You are connecting their faith to a community via online. So show up physically & mentally (this means contribute! Share your stories and be relatable.) And take it a step further! What else can you do to “be present” outside of your Small Group meetings? What about a drive by to wave to your small group members - or drop off treats? Or send them postcards to remind them of the verse this month?
- ▶ **Create a safe place:** Confidentiality is key. Listen to them and protect them, (if there are red flags, you must alert the parent if their child is in danger). Creating a safe place will be a continual process. Let your kids know you are there for them. Take care of them!

Partner With Parents & Make it Personal

- ▶ **Partner with parents:** You may have these kids on a zoom call for a little bit, but you are here to nurture an everyday faith by partnering with their parents! So Cue the parent! Let them know who you are! Example: “Hi! I’m Kristina, I’m your child’s SGL and I want to let you know that I’m here to partner with you in Kelly’s life this year so they can develop a faith that sticks!” (wink!) Something like that. But in reality, letting the parent know that you are linking arms with them so the faith conversation can keep going at home!
- ▶ **Make it personal:** Lead by example! How are you living in community - are you a part of a small group? How are you expected to keep pouring out if you aren’t poured into? Think bigger than just attending a service. Find ways to relate to your little crew! Grow your faith so you can help the faith of your small group grow as well!

Move Them Out

Move them out: Engage your small group in a bigger story! How can they be the church? Maybe this is volunteering - like you! There are plenty of ways to get them involved in serving. Outreaches as a small group? Or serving with their family? What does their next move look like? Is it moving on to MS, being a part of the JV Squad? Is it being a buddy to a younger kid? Or is it getting ready for 2nd grade? Prepare them for that next life transition.

What happens during Small Groups?

You’ll start by reviewing the curriculum and videos earlier in the week. Be prepared to make it personal and share your own examples. The day of, we suggest logging on early, connecting with your leaders - asking any last minute questions. When the kids come on, it’s time to shine! Remember to let each child talk, and keep engagement. (Psst. that’s what the curriculum is for!) After they log off, you will most likely stay on the line to connect with your leaders again to debrief. This is your team. They are here to help you make this experience fun and memorable for these kids!

*Remember: **“Your few are not problems to be solved, they are people to be loved.”**
Thank you so much for linking arms to help develop a faith that sticks.*