



Leading Preschool & Kindergarten Online Small Groups



Online Small Groups with 4 to 6 year olds is possible when you follow these Lead Small Principles:

Be Present & Create A Safe Space

As families log on you want to immediately start connecting with them to help establish a sense of *trust, safety, and community*.

- ▶ **Always give a warm welcome**
- ▶ **Refer to each child by name**
- ▶ **Actively listen and engage to build connections**

Within the first 5 to 7 minutes through the use of a weekly "Show and Tell" you will be able to create a space and the opportunity for each child to share and connect with you and the rest of the group. This time will help reinforce to each child that even online they matter.

Make it Personal

1. Say their name, often

- ▶ Referring to a child by name helps them
- ▶ Know that you are personally speaking to them
- ▶ You desire to connect

2. Give space for communication

- ▶ The ability to communicate differs for each child.
- ▶ Give plenty of opportunities to respond verbally and nonverbally.
- ▶ Give space and time to process their thoughts.

3. Encourage and praise

- ▶ Acknowledge the actions and words that your few express and share throughout each activity.
- ▶ This boosts their engagement
- ▶ Reinforces that you are present and attentive.

Partner with Parents

Preschool and Kindergarten, because of their age, will have their parents sitting close to them during small group to help their child participate in each activity. This creates a unique opportunity to:

- ▶ **Connect and engage with parents**
- ▶ **Reinforce that their child has another spiritual role model in their life**
- ▶ **Provide parents with tools to help them reinforce God's truths right in their own homes.**

* Connecting virtually with our Preschool and Kindergarten families will be rewarding for you and everyone who participates. If nothing else, remember children learn best when they are enjoying the activities they are watching or participating in with people they trust. How you make them feel at this age makes a big impression on their minds and hearts.

Watch our PreK/K Online Small Group Video from start to finish and look for the Lead Small Principals as well as pick up some Tips and Tricks on how to connect with your few.