

Grow Group Session 3

Scenario: 1

At your church, children remain in corporate worship with their parents and are only dismissed during the sermon.

You believe this matters. Children are seeing:

- Confession and assurance
- Congregational singing
- Corporate prayer
- Scripture read aloud
- The sacraments

However, several parents have expressed concern:

“I think our children would get more out of church if they had their own worship service.”

“They don’t understand most of what’s happening.”

“I spend the whole time trying to keep them quiet.”

At the same time:

- Parents don’t feel confident explaining elements of the service.
- There is little conversation at home about what happens on Sunday.
- Families don’t connect corporate worship to weekday life.
- Some parents see children’s worship as something the church should “optimize,” rather than something families help interpret.

You are committed to intergenerational worship and want to help parents see that worship shapes and forms every member of the family. There is a need for parent training, but at the same time, you recognize that parents have limited time, and adding another class or program isn’t the solution.

How could you help families:

1. See the value of children participating in corporate worship?
2. Feel equipped to train and guide their children during the service?
3. Extend what happens on Sunday into meaningful practices at home?

Scenario 2

Parents in your church believe that spiritual formation matters. They value corporate worship and want their children to grow in faith, but everyday life feels overwhelming.

Weeknights are full. Mornings are rushed. Evenings are chaotic. Parents are tired.

Many say:

“We know we should be more intentional at home... we just can’t seem to fit it in.”

Spiritual formation isn’t rejected. It is simply pushed to the margins.

At the same time, your church emphasizes that parents are the primary disciplers. But many parents hear that and think:

“I need to be a Bible expert.”

“I need to lead formal devotionals.”

So discipleship feels intimidating and time-consuming.

Meanwhile, there is little connection between Sunday worship and everyday life.

You do not want to create guilt or add more programs, but you do want to help parents move forward with clarity and confidence.

You believe:

A primary discipler is someone with consistent influence, not perfect expertise.

Discuss:

- How can we help parents see discipleship as everyday influence, not added pressure?
- How can we connect corporate worship to simple, realistic home rhythms?
- What is one small next step families could take this week?

Scenario 3: Communication Practices that Reinforce Partnership

Your children's ministry sends a weekly email with:

- The Bible passage
- A summary of the lesson
- A list of announcements

Open rates are low. Parents say they are overwhelmed by church emails and often miss them. There is little two-way communication, and parents don't feel personally connected to what's happening in children's ministry.

You want communication to:

- Reinforce parents as disciplers
- Help connect Sunday to home
- Build relational trust
- Be realistic for busy families

Discussion:

1. How can we communicate in ways that feel like partnership rather than instruction?
2. Where are we building real relationships with our parents?
3. How can we create two-way communication instead of one-way information?
4. How can we affirm to parents they are already doing well?
5. How can children become a relational bridge between church and home?