

SMALL GROUP *Expectations*

SETTING YOUR OWN EXPECTATIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

Kids need boundaries and expectations. In fact, kids thrive when they know what is expected of them. When it comes to your small group, one of the best things you can provide for your kids are set guidelines and expectations.

When kids don't know what is expected of them, they will fill in the gaps and create what they think is expected of them. This leads to frustration as a leader because kids aren't doing what you desire them to do.

As you think about your small group, write down some desired expectations you would like to hold your group accountable to when it comes to their behavior, participation, and engagement.

Sample expectations to set for your group:

- Everyone is sitting on their bottom
- If you want to share something with the group, raise your hand, and wait to be called upon
- We treat everyone with respect in this group

MY EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS GROUP:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

When do you communicate these expectations?

At the beginning of each group. Before you dive into the small group lesson, you review your expectations.

How often do you communicate expectations?

Every week you are leading your small group

Creative tips for cultivating your expectations in your small group:

1. After a month of communicating your expectations, ask kids who have been there during this time to see if they can recite your expectations (with a reward of course)
2. Reward the group for acting like a team by having them work together to abide by your expectations. Have an incentive for the group if they keep and uphold all your expectations. Make it all or nothing.