**HOW TO GROW YOUR GROUP**

1. **During your group prayer time, make a special prayer list.**

We should first talk to God more about our friends than talking to our friends about God. Model that by asking each one of your students to think of three friends that may not have a church home and might be searching for God. Discuss how God can help those friends. Consider writing some of the kids suggested names in your journal for prayer and follow-up. Give an opportunity for everyone in the group to pray for their names silently and—if they so desire, allow them to pray out loud for their own personal specific needs. Model for the kids the importance of praying for people that are seeking God

1. **Remind and encourage inviting friends.**

Make it a weekly practice to remind your kids how important it is to bring their friends, especially their friends that normally do not go to church.

1. **Write cards and send postcards.**

Kids come back when they feel missed or wanted. You might even suggest that others in the group phone or send cards to absent children.

1. **It is easier to multiply small groups than large.**

As soon as a group regularly averages over eight per session, talk to the coach or leader about finding another shepherd so that the group can be multiplied. It is easier to ask groups to invite their friends when their group starts with a smaller number of four or five. Once a group’s average attendance is over ten, it becomes more and more difficult for that group to grow.

1. **Laugh with and enjoy your kids.**

The kids can tell when you enjoy them. When they feel loved and encouraged, they are free to interact in the group. If they are having fun, they will also be more willing to invite others.