**HOW TO ASSIGN KIDS TO SMALL GROUPS**

*\*This task may be assigned to a shepherd’s coach or specific age level leader.*

1. **Take input from shepherds and kids.**

Kids want to stay with their friends. This can be appropriate if the groups can remember they are not cliques. In other words, emphasize that kids should not come together to keep other people out, but rather, to invite new ones in. Some groups want to stay together from year to year. This can be healthy as solid relationships are built between shepherds and kids.

1. **Organize for growth.**

Although groups may become familiar with one another, they must always be prepared to multiply into two new groups. This happens when the average attendance reaches ten or more.

1. **Rosters of 16 equal groups of eight.**

Design groups with both strong regular attenders mixed with those who don’t attend as frequent. Likely, a core of kids is present on a regular basis and this can encourage new kids to become regular attenders.

1. **When to separate genders.**

It is suitable for grades one and two to have both genders together. If you have enough groups in grade three and four, these will be the years that you begin to separate according to gender. By grades five and six, it is best to have them separated as it will encourage more open, honest small group discussion.