

SMALL CHURCH

10 or fewer children in attendance

1. How to divide the children.

Divide them into two age groups: a lower level and upper level. Make your own division to where these ages may fall. For example, a likely break is a lower level from age four through second grade, and an upper level containing grades three through six. Or perhaps the division would be age four through first grade and grades two through five together.

Determine what age group the majority of kids fall. For example, if you have only a few children in preschool, the smaller ones can buddy up with an elementary age partner. If you have only a few in later elementary (5-6 grades), let them be helpers to shepherds.

2. Ministry partner requirement.

You still need specialized ministry roles. For example, you will need a puppeteer and a large group presenter. These two people will probably need to work in both the lower and upper age groups. You will need a shepherd for the lower level and a shepherd for the upper level. You may find that older elementary age children or teens, if gifted and mature, may be able to help with puppeteering or can be a shepherd's assistant in the lower level.

3. Involve others from the congregation in gathering supplies.

A small church has, as one of its strongest assets, a sense of family and connection to the mission. You can involve more people in ministry by putting supply needs in the church bulletin or creating a "gathering" location in a visible spot. This could be a table or bin with signs where people will readily see it. People can gather materials and resources from home and assist in filling the shopping needs of the supply coordinator. A ministry partner could volunteer or the overall director could assume the role of supply coordinator.

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