



Curbing Parental Anxiety Over Reopening Children's Ministry

Families are both ready and apprehensive about the lifting of the quarantine. How will your church calm the fears of parents bringing their children back to church? Begin with prayer and follow the Spirit's leading for your children's ministry. Asking for wisdom to meet the challenges of reopening is the first step in lifting anxiety for not only parents, but for staff and volunteers. As you begin your own strategy for how to gather together again, following these guidelines can help ease the minds of parents as they bring their children back to church.

- » Follow the benchmarks for safely reopening. Choosing to limit the number of children at each event while progressing through the phases developed by state and local authorities will provide a gradual reopening that can limit the anxiety of parents.
- » Present your guidelines, clearly explaining the precautions that have been made, including enhanced cleaning and disinfecting; proper check-in procedures; social distancing of activities; and protective masks for all staff and volunteers. Make these guidelines prominent in all registrations and promotions of reopening. Good communication with parents will give them a better sense of security.
- » Consider teaching in family groups of children to reduce exposure.
- » Consider meeting in larger spaces rather than small group rooms and using outdoor spaces (weather permitting). Remove all non-essential resources from the teaching area to limit contamination.
- » Consider continuing discipleship-at-home options for families who choose not to return right away.
- » Understand parents will return their children when they feel comfortable doing so. Easing their anxiety will take time and will happen differently for each family.

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Equipping churches and families to lead children to become fully committed disciples of Jesus.

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