

# CALLIE - PART I

## "Realities of Families With Children & How the Church Can Respond" with Callie

### Triller

#### REALITIES FOR YOUNG FAMILIES:

1. Introduce our family & my reality as life as a mom of young kids:
  - a. We have two littles: 3.5 & 1 year old boys
    - i. They are busy
    - ii. I'm tired & sweaty most days
  - b. I'm always wanting adult conversations
  - c. I'm constantly scanning the room for my little people & all possible hazards (including Noah running into a little old lady)
  - d. I'm constantly oscillating between wanting to be fully present as a mom and wanting more for my intellectual brain
2. Realities of a Sunday Morning for 0-5 year old parent:
  - a. Church is during morning nap time<sup>[SEP]</sup>
  - b. Snacks are a godsend<sup>[SEP]</sup>
  - c. Playing quietly and independently for an hour is a lot to ask of an under 5 year old<sup>[SEP]</sup>
  - d. I haven't fully participated in a whole worship service in 3.5 years – except when we were on the radio
  - e. I enter and leave a lot of Sundays giving myself a pep talk on both ends – this is an important regular rhythm for the boys; it's valuable that I attend, I'm missed when I don't – it's a lot easier to watch via facebook live<sup>[SEP]</sup>

#### REALITIES FOR OLDER FAMILIES:

3. *Lots of families with two full time working parents*<sup>[SEP]</sup>
  - a. Be ruthlessly efficient in church scheduling. Be thoughtful in terms of what you invite families to and be careful not to overextend them. Worship + 1 + 1 (Sunday Worship + Regular Bible Study/Small Group + Monthly Service Opportunities)
  - b. Remove the two main participation barriers by providing dinner and childcare
  - c. Schedule with families in mind (we finish our Wednesday nights at 7pm) – added homework hour for working parents to finish their day and not have to pick up at 4:30pm.
4. *Many families attend worship only 1-2x a month*
  - a. So many things are pulling for their time (ski team, youth sports, etc.)<sup>[SEP]</sup>
  - b. Is this a problem to be addressed with our members or simply a

reality that we as a church must adapt to? The answer is probably a bit of both ... [SEP]

- c. We must think beyond Sundays to reach the youngest generation [SEP]
5. Families will look for information about your church electronically – they will not call the office
  - a. Website
  - b. Social media
  - c. Texting
6. Many families want for their children to experience church or develop a faith even if they are not interested in developing their own faith
1. SERVE families OUTSIDE of your church: How can you provide SAFE SPACES, COMMUNITY & SUPPORT to young children & their parents?
  - a. The 15min story of the Early Childhood Coalition
  - a. Childcare/preschool
  - b. Spaces/groups for parents to meet up – moms groups (MOPS, Risen Motherhood), parenting classes, date nights
  - c. “Play dates”/events for families in the community to come and participate in age appropriate crafts/games, etc.
  - d. Host “out of school” days where kids are off school but parents still have to work
  - e. Support “missions” that support young families - Pregnancy Support Center; Early Childhood Coalition, etc.
  - f. Find ways to serve at your local schools, childcare centers, etc.
  - g. Allow your building to be used as much as possible - 4H, piano recitals, meetings, etc.
  - h. Host a community youth group - invest in a ping pong table
  - i. Host a lunch bunch - high school lunch
  - j. Bivocational/co-vocational pastors - working in or with your local school: substitute teacher shortage, bus driver shortage, childcare center

**NEEDS:**

Kids need SAFE SPACES

Parents need COMMUNITY

Families need SUPPORT

**RESOURCES:**

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/prioritize-worship-no-childcare/>

Gianforte Foundation - community outreach grants -

<https://gianfortefoundation.org/initiatives/>

Risen Motherhood - <https://www.risenmotherhood.com>