

## Guidelines for When a New Group is Needed

1. **Cap on Enrollment** – Through the years, it has been suggested that enrollment should not exceed 25 in an adult class. In more recent years, churches have softened their stance on this rule to make allowances for co-ed classes and to maximize the use of space. It is advised that when the enrollment exceeds 25 that the class should become more intentional in creating small groups (care groups) to adequately address the needs of members and engage them in ministry and missions.
2. **Capacity of the Room** – This guideline is hard to break. When attendance is consistently at 80% of the room capacity, growth will stop or decline. See [http://www.alsbom.org/clientimages/36469/sbom\\_offices/sunday\\_school/free\\_helps/meetingspacespecificationschart.pdf](http://www.alsbom.org/clientimages/36469/sbom_offices/sunday_school/free_helps/meetingspacespecificationschart.pdf) for room capacity suggestions.
3. **Capability of Leaders** – The ability to expand the leadership base in a class will determine its ability to effectively minister, mentor, and mobilize the membership. New groups allow for the enlistment and involvement of more leaders. Larger adult classes will need to be intentional in developing more leaders in a variety of roles. See <http://www.alsbom.org/ss-helps> for samples of class organization and responsibilities of leaders.
4. **Contribution to the Mission** – When classes begin to focus more on maintenance ministry (inward) than mission (outward), a new group should be started to focus on reaching a new people groups.
5. **Calendar** – Preschool, Children, and Youth (Students) promote annually. It is wise to launch new classes to assist in reaching these age groups with the new Sunday School calendar year. Adult classes are also impacted by the calendar though annual promotion is no longer popular. By the second calendar year of their existence, adult classes will reach their maximum potential and tend to focus more on ministry than mission. Challenge adult classes to launch a new group or send out a significant number of leaders every 18 to 24 months.