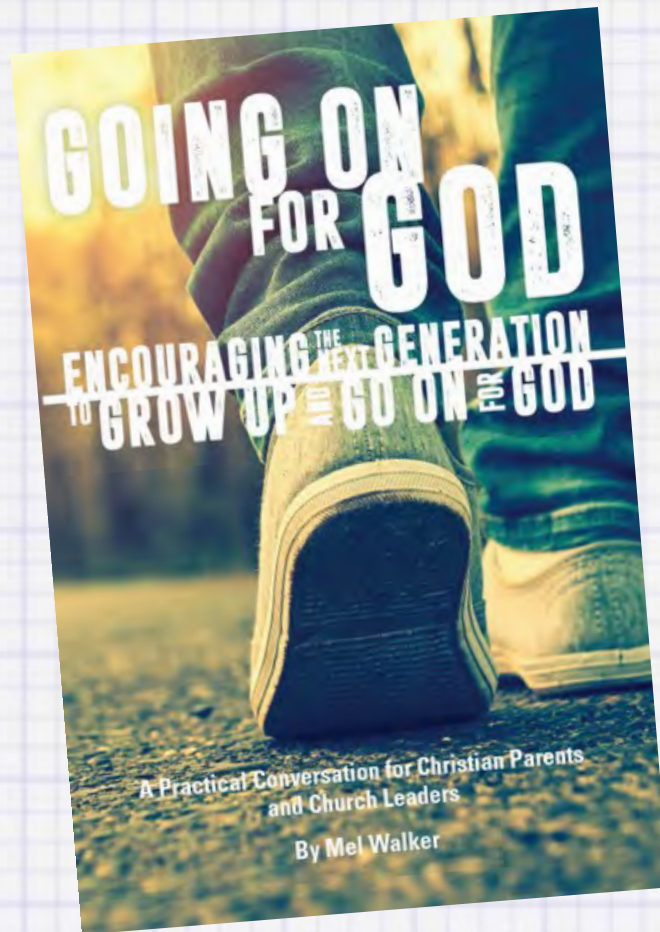


GOING ON FOR GOD SEMINAR



SEMINAR NOTES

BY MEL WALKER

GOING ON FOR GOD SEMINAR

ENCOURAGING ^{THE} NEXT GENERATION
TO GROW UP AND GO ON FOR GOD

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TENTATIVE SEMINAR SCHEDULE

- Session 1:** *What Do We Want For Our Kids?*
Session 2: *How Can The Church and Families Collaborate?*
Session 3: *Practical Strategies for Lasting Spiritual Growth*

SESSION 1:

What do you want for your kids?

“WHAT DO WE WANT FOR OUR KIDS?”

Acts 11:23

“When Barnabas came and saw God at work, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should go on for God.” (paraphrase)

Ephesians 4:14-15

“...that they should no longer be children... but, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ.”

BASIC PREMISE:

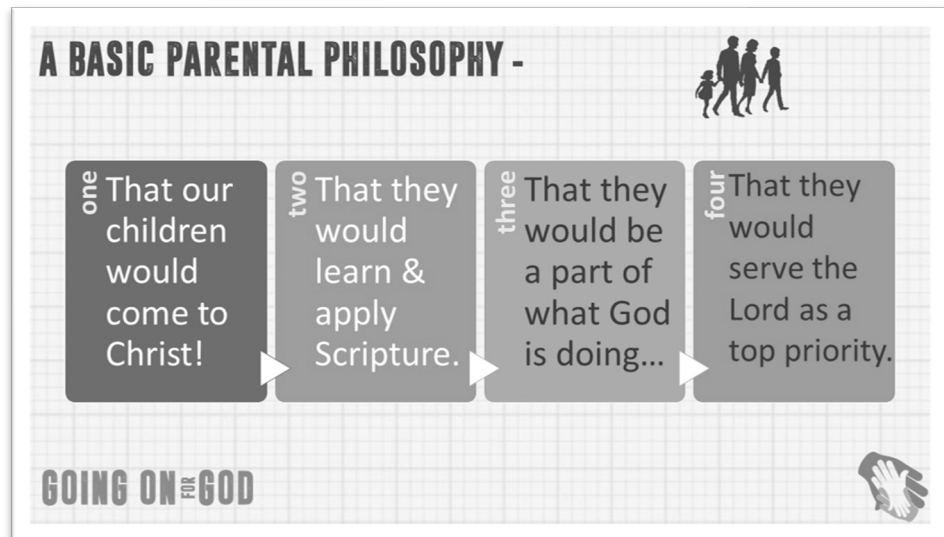
- The Church – Ephesians 4:14-15

- The Home – Ephesians 6:1-4

Both institutions must be committed to helping our children grow up into spiritual maturity so that they go on for God as adults.

Is that what is happening in your church?

MAKING THIS PERSONAL:



WHY ARE YOUNG ADULTS LEAVING THE CHURCH?

- _____
- _____
- _____



IT'S TIME TO STOP THE EXODUS OF YOUNG ADULTS WALKING AWAY FROM GOD

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

REASONS	NOT GROUNDED IN BIBLICAL TRUTH	NO OWNERSHIP IN THEIR LOCAL CHURCH	NOT RECEIVING CONSISTENT MESSAGES FROM INFLUENTIAL ADULTS	NOT CONNECTED WITH OTHER GENERATIONS
CHURCH				
FAMILY				

SESSION 2

HOW CAN WE THE CHURCH AND FAMILIES COLLABORATE?

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES FACING MINISTRY / CULTURE TODAY:

The Family –

The Church –

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT IT?



THE CHURCH

THE HOME



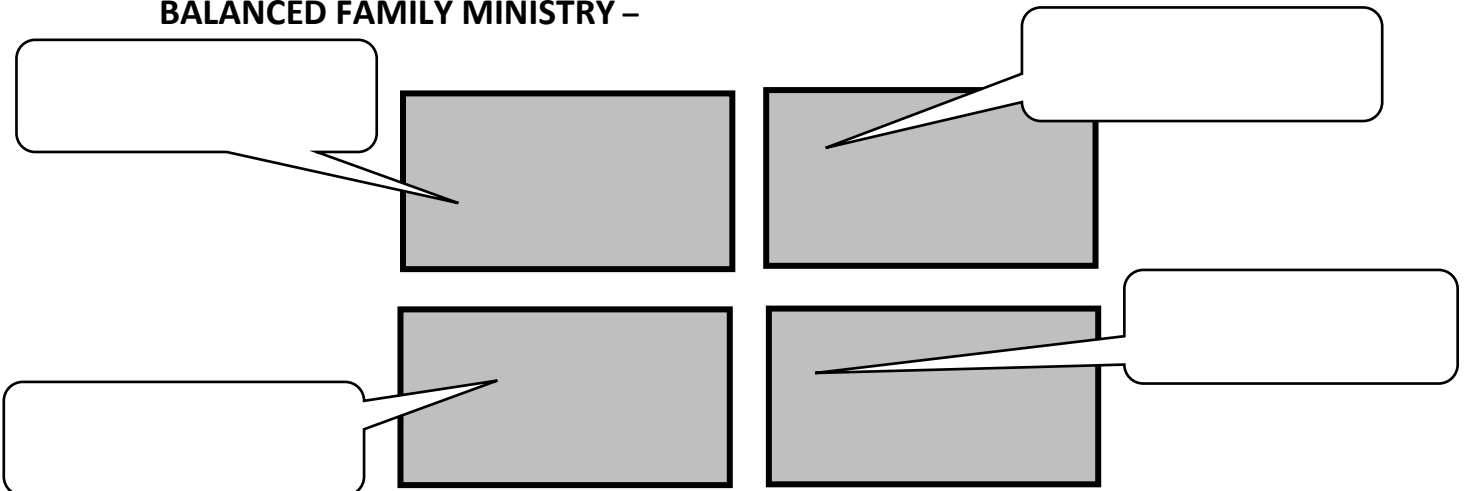
MINISTRY SUGGESTIONS FOR CHURCH LEADERS

1. Develop & implement a strategic and balanced approach for family ministry.

OVERVIEW OF FAMILY MINISTRY -

ROLE OF PARENTS	ROLE OF YOUTH MINISTRY	RESULT
Parents Are Absent	Share the Gospel & Provide Spiritual Mentors	Kids See the Gospel in Action from Loving Adults
Parents Are Disinterested	Significant Spiritual Influence	Kids Are Welcomed and See Church as a Family
Parents Bring Their Children	Responsibility for Spiritual Input & Social Connections	Church Leaders Teach God's Word & Reach Out to Families
Parents Who Serve	Utilize Parents to Help in Church Ministry	Kids See Parents as Willing Helpers
Parents Learn From Church Leaders	Church Leaders Hold Classes to Teach Parents	Parents Learn About Youth Culture & Some Parenting Skills
Parents Collaborate With Church Leaders	Work Alongside Parents to Encourage Toward Spiritual Maturity	Kids Grow Spiritually and Many Go On For God
Parents Mentor Other Parents	Equip Older Parents to Mentor Younger Parents	Kids Learn That Parents Need Input from Others in the Church
Parents Disciple Their Own Children	Stay Out of the Way	Kids Are Isolated From Broader Christian Community

BALANCED FAMILY MINISTRY -



Ingredients of an Effective Family Ministry:

- Plan _____
- Implement _____
- Motivate & train _____
- Commit to _____

2. Identify “rhythms” in your community to plan your church’s calendar... and don’t “over-schedule” your church’s programs.



3. Remember – your church will likely reach a wide variety of households and “family situations”. (How can your church “be a family” for a growing number of dysfunctional & needy households?)

4. Churches and church leaders should do whatever we can to demonstrate to parents, families & households that we can be a resource to them!

How can the church be an effective resource to parents & families?

5. Real ministry in a post-Christian culture will demand initiative. We must learn how to reach out and disciple people (even if they don't commit to our programs and meetings).

Ministering to Kids in an Incredibly-Busy Culture:

- ✓ Pray for them!
- ✓ Be a “fan” ...
- ✓ Position yourself (and the church) as a resource to them.

- ✓ Make what you do really important – clearly communicate the “why”!
- ✓ You commit to disciple or minister to them...
- ✓ Be faithful. (Real ministry often takes time.)

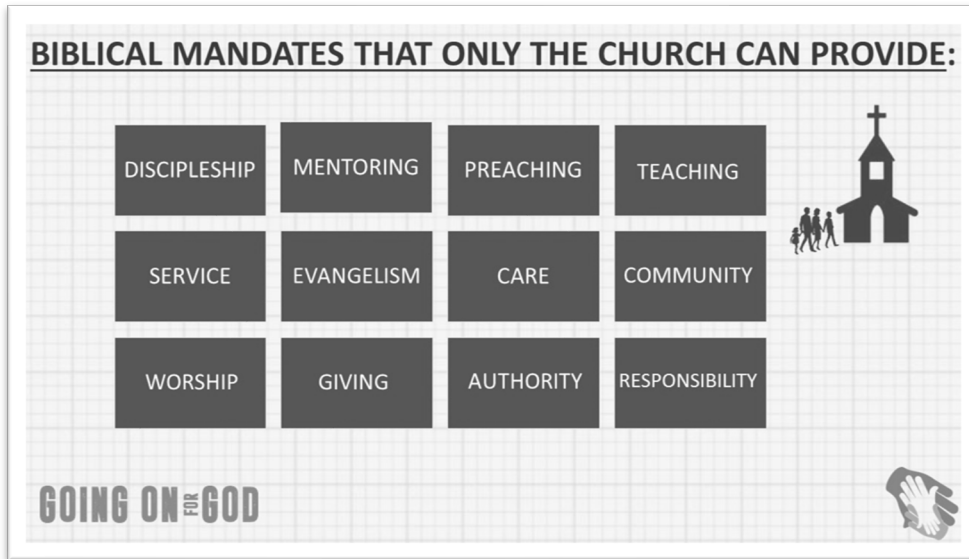
PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR CHRISTIAN PARENTS

1. Remember that God’s goal for our kids is for them to grow up and go on for God! This goal must be our focus as we raise our kids!

“...no longer children...” Ephesians 4:14-15

“...bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:1-4

2. It is important to involve our kids in what God is doing in the world today – His church!



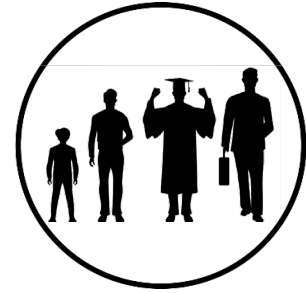
3. Work with the church to build spiritual disciplines into the lives of our kids! (See chart.)

4. Don't make our families more important than the church!

See: Matthew 10:37 and Luke 14:26

SESSION 3

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR LASTING SPIRITUAL GROWTH



1. **MENTORING IN MINISTRY** – How can you identify Godly adult servants to mentor young people in specific aspects of ministry?

Biblical Examples: Barnabas with Saul, Acts 11:12-26
John Mark, Acts 12:25-13:5
Timothy, Acts 16:1-5



2. **INTER-GENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS** – How can you develop growing, positive, personal, and inter-generational connections for young people?

Balanced Approach to Ministry:

- One-Generational (Peer) Ministry
- Multi-Generational Ministry
- Inter-Generational Ministry



How to Develop Inter-Generational Connections in Your Church?

- ✓ Motivate oldest generations to pray specifically & individually for young people.



- ✓ Provide opportunities for young people to minister to older members.
- ✓ Build an “all-church” youth ministry...

BUILDING AN “ALL-CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRY” –

1. Reach the next generation for Christ.
2. Equip parents to be a spiritual success with their kids.
3. Provide opportunities for emerging generations to serve and “be an example.”
4. Build intentional inter-generational connections.
5. Challenge the entire church to impact emerging generations.
6. Help emerging adults to identify Godly peers.
7. Demonstrate that we serve a big God – Who is doing big things!
8. Intentionally welcome emerging adults into the overall life of the church.

- ✓ Plan inter-generational times of fellowship.
- ✓ Develop a mentoring culture...
- ✓ Model it...

“Here’s the bottom line: every kid needs five adult fans. Any young person who shows any interest in Christ needs a minimum of five people of various ages who will say, *‘I’m going to love that kid until they are fully walking as an adult member of this congregation.’*”

-Dr. Chap Clark (8.17.2004)

3. **BIBLE TEACHING CURRICULUM** – What does a fully-devoted follower of Christ “look like”? What should fully-devoted Christ-followers know, do, or believe in?

What are your youth ministry educational opportunities?



By the time they graduate from High School -

- What do you want them to know?
- What do you want them to be able to do?
- What do you want them to believe in?

4. **“SWEAT EQUITY”** – How can you help young people get actively and personally involved in the ministries of your church?



- Ministry
- Work projects
- Giving
- Inter-generational connections
- Active participation
- Church business
-

5. **DEVELOPING YOUNGER LEADERS** – How can you identify and train young people to be servant-leaders in the church?

Practical Suggestions –

- ✓ Build a culture of “service” – allow younger members to use their gifts to serve the Lord. (Look for servants!)
- ✓ Remember that we live in a multi-generational culture.
- ✓ Loyalty builds from having a voice in the big picture...
- ✓ Identify, and then mentor and train younger leaders (see Acts 13:1-5 and 2 Timothy 3).
- ✓ Begin to “look within” for the next generation of pastors and other church leaders.



What is your church doing to identify younger leaders?

6. OUTREACH TO CHILDREN & TEENAGERS – How can your local church reach young people for Christ?

**What is your church doing to reach out to young people?
(And their families?)**



7. **EQUIPPING PARENTS – AND BEING “FAMILY FRIENDLY”** – How can your local church train and help today’s parents and households?



INGREDIENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE FAMILY MINISTRY:

- Plan an outreach strategy for unchurched families in your community.
- Implement a teaching & training ministry in your church for kids and parents...
 - Classes & Activities
 - Resources
 - Counseling
- Motivate & train older parents to mentor....
- Commit to working WITH parents for the long-term spiritual growth of their kids. (Do they know that is your objective?)

GOING ON FOR GOD

What does your church’s family ministry look like?

8. **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY** – Is your church a safe place for minors to attend?



Some Things to Think Through –

1. Try to keep meeting facilities for babies & youngest children near to auditorium.
2. Know and practice the law.
3. Require background checks for all workers & members of the leadership team.
4. Enforce mandatory waiting period of all adult volunteers.
5. Organize and implement a mandatory check in & check out system for all children.
6. Utilize technology to monitor all public areas of children's ministry...
7. Consult professionals to develop plans for safety and security.
8. Characterize your ministry with quality and professionalism.
9. Clearly communicate what precautions you are taking with your constituency.

What are some of your church's child protection policies and procedures?

9. **SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES** – How can Christian parents work with the local church to build habits of spiritual disciplines into the lives of young people (...and adults)?



What spiritual disciplines are you teaching children, teenagers - everyone?

10. **THE CHURCH AS A “FAMILY”** – How can Christian parents work with the local church to help the church “be a family” to the growing number of non-traditional, dysfunctional households in your community?



Ministering to “Spiritual Orphans” & Other Needy Kids –

- ✓ The church must provide other Godly adults who are committed to welcoming them into the family!

- ✓ Young people must see the church as a place where God is working in the lives of others!

*“To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen.”*

Ephesians 3:21

PRACTICAL MENTORING IDEAS – by Mel Walker

If the adults say, "I have no extra time to invest."

- Add specific young people to your personal prayer list and pray faithfully for them.
- Begin a non-threatening conversation with young people in the church foyer.
- Greet teenagers and young adults with a big smile and handshake.
- Ask them for a prayer request and then pray for them right then.
- Share a blessing or prayer request with them.
- Sit near young people in church services.
- Offer to take them with you on an errand.
- Ask key young people to help you with a project.
- Invite them to your home for a meal.
- Meet them at a restaurant. (You have to eat, anyway.)
- Give them something meaningful to you (like a book or CD).
- Sponsor them financially for a youth group activity, missions trip, etc.

If the adults say, "I have about 15 minutes a week."

- Write them a note of encouragement.
- Send an e-mail or text message.
- Give them a quick phone call.
- Offer to drive them home from youth group, church, or an activity. (Make sure to follow your church's "child protection policy".)
- Initiate one-on-one conversations before or after services.
- Brag on the young person to their parents.
- Pray for a specific need every day.
- Compliment them in front of someone else.
- Congratulate them on a recent accomplishment.

If the adults say, "I have 30 minutes a week."

- Discuss your devotions together.
- Go to 30 minutes of an event (sports, drama, music, etc.).
- Offer to drop in to see them in youth group.
- Meet them in a non-threatening location for accountability or prayer.
- Drop in on them at work (if appropriate).
- Pray for their specific needs each day.
- Provide transportation to and from an activity or work. (Make sure to follow your church's "child protection policy".)
- Memorize a passage of Scripture together.

If the adults say, "I have 2 hours a week."

- Find something you have in common and do that together.
- Visit in the students' homes. (Make sure to follow your church's "child protection policy".)
- Invite them to an evening in your home.
- Take them out to eat.
- Take their parents out to dinner.
- Help them with homework.
- Do a service project, ministry, hobby, or craft together (golf, crafts, working on cars, etc.).
- Pop a bag of popcorn and hang out.
- Go shopping together.
- Wash and wax their car.
- Listen to music or Podcasts together.
- Discuss a spiritual or theological question & search the Scriptures for the answer.
- Go on a simple activity together (miniature golfing, bowling, etc.).
- Have a Bible study.

-Take a gift to a needy friend together.

If the adults say, "I have 4 hours a week."

- Play a round of golf – or do another activity together.
- Go on a hike.
- Go to a ball game or musical concert (let them select the artist).
- Make a video.
- Volunteer at a mission.
- Read/discuss a Bible study book.
- Teach the young person a new skill.
- Give emerging adults the opportunity to teach you something new.
- Participate in a church work day together.

If the adults say, "I have 10 hours a week."

- Go on a camp-out. (Again, Make sure to follow your church's "child protection policy".)
- Clean/organize something together.
- Paint or build something together.
- Wash and clear the pastor's car.
- Organize a food drive and deliver to a needy family.
- Start a new ministry at church together.

If the adults say, "I have 20 hours a week."

- “Get a life!”

Note: Some of these ideas are suggested in "*The Mentoring Handbook*" published by Youth Alive Student Ministries, Bethesda Baptist Church in Brownsburg, Indiana and Lake Ann Baptist Camp, Lake Ann, Michigan. Some of these ideas can also be found in Doug Field's book "*Purpose-Driven Youth Ministry*" published by Zondervan.

PRACTICAL IDEAS TO HELP KIDS GROW UP TO GO ON FOR GOD – By Mel Walker

Practical Ideas for Pastors, Youth Workers, and Other Church Leaders:

- Invite older adults to share their story (their testimony) with the youth group or young adult group in your church.
- Schedule a time for mature teenagers to participate in all of the ministries of the church (e.g. attend deacons' meetings, etc.) and report back to the other teenagers.
- Produce "baseball card" sized prayer cards for each teen and young adult (include digital photo and brief bio information) in the church and give to the senior citizens class for prayer. (At least give the older adults a list and some pertinent information about each young person to older adults for prayer.)
- Schedule and plan inter-generational table game nights with simple refreshments.
- Recruit older adults to be mentors to begin inter-generational conversations and relationships in church foyer.
- Offer inter-generational "Titus 2" classes or meetings on specific issues relating to marriages & children... and other practical topics. Give older adults opportunities to mentor younger adults.
- Plan and schedule equipping ministries for parents in your church.
- Involve teens and young adults alongside of adults in all public ministries - for example, greeters, parking lot attendants, ushers, worship team, tech team, etc.
- Talk with your church attorney about lowering the voting age in your church constitution - and then follow through with this decision.
- Be intentional about hosting inter-generational activities and events – where the various generations have the opportunity to actually connect.
- Take senior adults on a "field trip" to visit the youth group meetings and worship times.
- Think about ways to include older adults as youth workers or children's workers.
- Schedule and motivate people for inter-generational prayer meetings and small group Bible studies.
- Plan and take inter-generational missions trips.
- Be committed to getting involved in outreach in your community.
- Contact Mel about scheduling a "Going On For God" seminar in your church for church leaders and Christian parents.

Practical Ideas for Senior Citizens Gatherings to Become Inter-Generational:

- Encourage older adults to greet young people in the church foyer.
- Give significant older adults opportunities to share their story (testimony) in youth group or young adult meetings.
- Invite select senior adults to be involved in teaching young people from time to time.
- Motivate older students to pray specifically (by name) for young people in your church – and then schedule opportunities for them to meet those young people.
- Recruit some older adults to serve as youth workers or children's workers in your church.
- Encourage older adults to communicate specific encouragements to young people.
- Plan and schedule inter-generational table game nights or other fellowship times.
- Be intentional about providing ways for the generations to connect and build relationships.
- Schedule and motivate people for inter-generational prayer meetings.

Practical Ideas to Help Kids Gain Loyalty / Sweat Equity in the Local Church

- Today's young people are very social and justice conscious – provide ways to them to be actively involved in the ways your church meets the needs of your community.
- Teach young people to give and tithe to the church.
- Investigate ways to lower the voting age in your church constitution so that teenagers can participate in church business.
- Be intentional about teaching young people about your church's business meetings and leadership structure.

- Schedule and plan inter-generational work projects at the church.
- Make sure that all ministries of the church include inter-generational serving and mentoring.
- Provide ways for young people to be involved in all public ministries of the church (greeters, parking lot attendants, ushers, worship team, tech team, etc.)
- Help young people build relationship with other senior leaders in your church (in addition to the youth ministry staff).
- Motivate kids to pray specifically for your church and church leaders.
- Be intentional about involving young people in your church's missionary endeavors.
- Share with the young people that the church leaders are encouraging older adults to greet them and get to know them in the church foyer.
- Involve emerging generations in the big picture of what your church is doing in your community, your area, and around the world.

Practical Ideas for Christian Parents to Help Kids Grow Up to Go On for God

- Commit your family to the ministries of your church that feature: God's Word, worship, service, fellowship, giving, and evangelism. (Don't feel guilty for not being involved in *everything*.)
- Don't allow your kids to become "over-involved" in extra-curricular activities at the expense of their involvement in church and youth group.
- Identify key spiritual disciplines that you will build as habits in the lives and schedules of your kids (daily time with God, prayer, Bible memory, preaching & teaching of God's Word, participating in church, ministry & service, giving, fellowship, etc.)
- Be intentional about building five other influential, Godly adults into the lives of your kids.
- Allow your children to invite other Christian kids into your home.
- Involve your kids in God's mission – outreach into your community and global missions.
- Find ways to involve your kids in missions trips.
- Do "all family" serving projects – do service or ministry projects together as a family.
- Teach your kids to rely on God's resources. Raise your children in humility.
- Get parenting help if needed.
- Do all you can to reach out to "spiritual orphans" and other kids from dysfunctional families in your church and community.

ADVICE FOR CHURCH LEADERS WHEN WORKING WITH KIDS FROM DYSFUNCTIONAL OR UNSAVED FAMILIES:

- 1. Present / preach the Gospel.**
- 2. Preach expositional messages. (Teach about contemporary issues from the text of Scripture.)**
- 3. Plan purposeful, quality evangelistic events & programs.**
- 4. Train and encourage Godly kids to reach their friends.**
- 5. Hold equipping ministries for parents & families.**



ADVICE FOR CHURCH LEADERS WHEN WORKING WITH KIDS FROM DYSFUNCTIONAL OR UNSAVED FAMILIES:

CONTINUED

- 6. Provide and publicize a safe, caring environment.**
- 7. Offer training and counseling for parents & families.**
- 8. Use church facilities & property for community events.**
- 9. Develop strong inter-generational children's and youth ministries.**
- 10. Church leaders must get visibly involved in their communities.**



SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES TO CONSIDER

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Actions Steps For Parents	PRIORITY ITEMS	Action Steps For Churches
Build a Habit of Personal Devotions	Daily Time With God	Provide Resource for Church-Wide Personal Devotions
Encourage Children to Memorize Key Passages of Scripture	Bible Memory	Motivate for Church-Wide Scripture Memory
Be Consistent in Participation in Preaching & Teaching Ministries	Preaching / Teaching	Expository Preaching & Biblical Literacy Curriculum
Find Ways to Help Children Learn Truth & Encourage Them to Participate in Church Teaching Ministries	Theology	Set Preaching Plan & Educational Ministries to Teach Systematic Bible Doctrine
Model the Importance of Sharing One's Faith & Provide Evangelistic Opportunities	Outreach / Evangelism	Teach All Ages How to Share Their Faith & Provide Opportunities for Evangelistic Outreach
Be Consistent About Church Attendance & Help Children Build "Sweat-Equity"	Church Participation	Communicate Clear Reason for Why All Church Functions Are Held
Model Serving & Look for Whole-Family Means of Service	Ministry / Service	Provide Opportunities for God's People to Serve and Use Gifts & Abilities
Model Generosity & Be Consistent About Giving to God's Work	Giving	Teach on Biblical Stewardship & Communicate About Use of Church Funds
Develop a Prayer List of Important Family & "Body of Christ" Matters to Take to God	Prayer	Teach on the Subject of Prayer & Provide Opportunities for Church-Wide Prayer Meetings
Help Kids Find Good Christian Friends & Teach the Importance of Inter-Generational Connections	Fellowship / Friends	Balance Peer Ministries with Intentional Inter-Generational Connections
Help Teenagers Identify and Build Relationships with Godly Older Adults	Godly Adult Mentors	Teach on the Importance of Mentoring and Provide Opportunities for Mentoring in Ministry
Encourage Young People in Discipleship Relationships	Discipleship	Organize and Implement an Intentional Discipling Process
Teach Children Biblical Convictions & to Stand for Truth	Convictions / Bible Reasons	Help Reinforce Parents' Biblical Convictions

MODELS OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

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Parents Are Absent	Share the Gospel & Provide Spiritual Mentors	Kids See the Gospel in Action from Loving Adults
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