



tips for youth workers

MARCH 2009

FAMILY MINISTRY IDEAS

A growing church needs a strong family emphasis, for these simple reasons: God planned that **parents be responsible for teaching** their children His Word (Deut. 6:6, 7; Prov. 22:6); A child is most likely to continue coming to church, receive Christ as Saviour and grow as a Christian **when parents give active support**; and one of the most effective ways to help maintain those who are saved is to help them build a strong Christian home. Efforts that strengthen a family unit usually produce **better long-range results** in the lives of individuals than the same amount of effort expended in a program that helps only one family member. Need some family ministry ideas? Read on!

1. Invite families in your community to a **family night dinner** with representative program members who get acquainted and invite them to a program event.
2. **Provide a class** or club for parents of young children, such as BabySong.
3. **Provide a class** for parents of teenagers.
4. Involve families in **projects**: food bank support, missionary projects.
5. Develop **home study packets** for families to use when on vacation or when they can't be in class (pictures, DVDs, suggestions for study).
6. Have families **adopt a "grandparent"** from the congregation or community shares a meal with them once a month, attends church with them.
7. Establish **home contact** with families who have children in the nursery.
8. Enlist parents as **support personnel** in children and youth programming.
9. Provide **"extended family"** involvement for the single and single again members of your congregation.
10. Provide **family life conferences**.
11. Offer special classes/speakers for parents.
12. Make **counseling services** available.
13. Provide "Crisis line" for families in trouble.
14. Have an **Open House**; invite parents to observe their child's class or program.
15. Encourage teachers to invite families from their class to their home for an evening of family activities. Plan games, refreshments and devotions.
16. Suggest that teachers plan **social activities for families in their class**. A family picnic at a park with a playground is fun and easy to coordinate. Other possibilities are ice skating, hiking or swimming. Pair off families for various activities, enabling non-Christian families to get acquainted with some Christians in a relaxed atmosphere.
17. Send out a **periodic newsletter** featuring information of interest to parents and their child; e.g. information about what's coming up in children's programming.
18. Put **parents' bulletin boards** outside department rooms in early childhood, children and youth departments with information of interest to them.
19. Conduct a series of Parent/Teacher workshops.
20. Acquaint parents with helpful **books, magazines** and **websites**, such as Plugged in or pluggedinonline.com, Christian Parenting Today or momsense.com.