



# Serving Our Single Mothers

Ministry to single parents is an important part of your family ministry strategy—and it doesn't have to be difficult! Here are some ideas to get you started reaching out to single parents today!

Ask single parents what their needs are (time away from the kids, finances) & help meet those needs.

Form a committee with key single parents. Empower single parents to make the ministry what they need it to be. Let them “own” the ministry.

Pray weekly specifically for single parents. Ask God to give them strength and encouragement.

Encourage families and couples to welcome single parents into their homes for special occasions and holidays—and for no reason at all.

Start a support group.

Don't overburden singles. They often get too involved without getting their own needs met.

Have a parents night out. (Singles, like married people, need time for themselves.)

Offer an active singles life separate from the Sunday school class. And when planning social events, don't place emphasis on couples.

Provide childcare because finances are tough for most single parents.

Help with financial hardships, as best as you can.

Consider organizing an old-fashioned co-op where single parents (and other church members) can exchange services without money.

Also consider developing a “para-parenting” ministry, a big brother/big sister program for single parents' children.

Have a single parent tell his or her story during the worship service to help raise awareness.

Remember these parents at holidays and birthdays. These days can be killers for single parents. Ask, “How does our church communicate what a family is?” Sometimes the message communicated is very subtle: “This is how a family should be.” This alienates many parents and gives them a burden of guilt.

Be aware of how family finances and visitation schedules impact single parent families' involvement in your church. Help them find ways to stay connected.

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