

THE OUTLINE

PART 1

| DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

- Partnering with parents in the church or energizing your family's spiritual life
- All studies show that the most powerful force in a young person's life is their family
- Three phrases on my desk in my office:
 - When you reach the family, you reach the world...
 - One of the purposes of the church is to mentor parents, parents mentor their children and the legacy of faith continues to the next generation...
 - *"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me does not just welcome me but the one who sent me."*
Mark 9:37

IT'S NOT A PROGRAM...IT'S A MINDSET

The Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.

Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

- Faithfulness and fidelity to God (loyalty to God)
- How we transmit faith and love (through the family)
- How we keep a constant mindfulness of the teachings and presence of God

The Jewish leaders were testing Jesus: Matthew 22:35-40

"An expert in the law, tested him (Jesus) with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?'

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'"

Jesus Creed: Love the Lord your God with all your heart...and love your neighbor as yourself.

- What are you doing in your church to partner with parents and help families succeed?

“It’s our top priority for next year!”

“We have tried and it hasn’t worked.”

“We know it’s important.”

- What’s holding you back?

- It means more work... already too busy

- We’re insecure

- We sense parental resistance

- No say in adult education or a silo church mentality

- Lead pastor is threatened

PERSONAL & GROUP REFLECTION

PART 1

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. All three phrases Jim talked about at the beginning are powerful examples of family ministry. Which phrase stuck out the most in your mind?
2. “Family ministry is not a program, it’s a mindset.” How do you help make partnering with parents and family ministry more of a mindset at your church?
3. The Shema is a powerful roadmap to facilitate family discipleship. How can your church best teach this roadmap to the families in your church?
4. What makes the “Jesus Creed” such an incredible goal to live by and why?
5. Of the five possible options that hold churches back from partnering with parents, which one relates most to your church?

THE OUTLINE

PART 2

| SUPPORT AND FACILITATE HEALTHY FAMILIES

- First thing I would do...

- Find your Kathleen!

- Inform Parents

- Assist Parents

- Encourage Parents

- Involve Parents

PERSONAL & GROUP REFLECTION

PART 2

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. This section is about structuring areas of family ministry. On a scale of 1 (great) to 5 (needs major work), how would you rank the family ministry at your church?
2. **Inform Parents.** How well do you inform parents at your church and what are effective ways you do this?
3. **Assist Parents.** How well do you assist parents at your church? What are three possible new ways to practically assist parents in the coming year?
4. **Encourage Parents.** Parents need all the encouragement they can get. How can your church do a better job of encouraging parents in your church and your community?
5. **Involve Parents.** Almost all schools, sports teams and extracurricular programs ask for parental involvement, but most often, the church does not. What could you do to change that mindset and get more parental involvement in areas that could assist your ministry?

THE OUTLINE

PART 3

| DEVELOP FAMILY MINISTRY VALUES

- Strong Marriages
- Confident Parents (Single, Blended)
- Empowered Kids (Church and Home)
- Healthy Leaders

| STRONG MARRIAGES

- How to Know If You Are in Love
- Getting Ready for Marriage
- The First Few Years of Marriage
- Refreshing Your Marriage
- Creating an Intimate Marriage
- Marriage Mentoring
- Conferences
- Seminars
- Small Groups
- Counseling

CONFIDENT PARENTS

- Parent Seminars or Conferences

Topics like:

- Creating a Media Safe Home
- Teaching Your Kids Healthy Sexuality
- Energizing Your Kid's Spiritual Life
- Building Healthy Morals and Values
- Understanding Your Teen
- Parent Coaching
- Small Groups
- Family Counseling
- Rites of Passage Experiences

EMPOWERED KIDS

- Faith Conversations
- Offer Resources
- Teaching Healthy Sexuality
- Celebrating Rites of Passages: Pass it On

HEALTHY LEADERS

PERSONAL & GROUP REFLECTION

PART 3

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Jim shared four family ministry values. How would these values fit at your church? Is there another value that you would add?
2. Which of the family values do you think your church is doing best? Which value needs the most work?
3. Of all the practical ideas Jim shared for these values, are there any that stand out that you could implement?
4. Of these values, is there one of them that you personally feel compelled to work on?
5. Healthy Leaders is a key value to a healthy family ministry. What can your church do to focus on the spiritual, emotional and relational health of your leaders?