

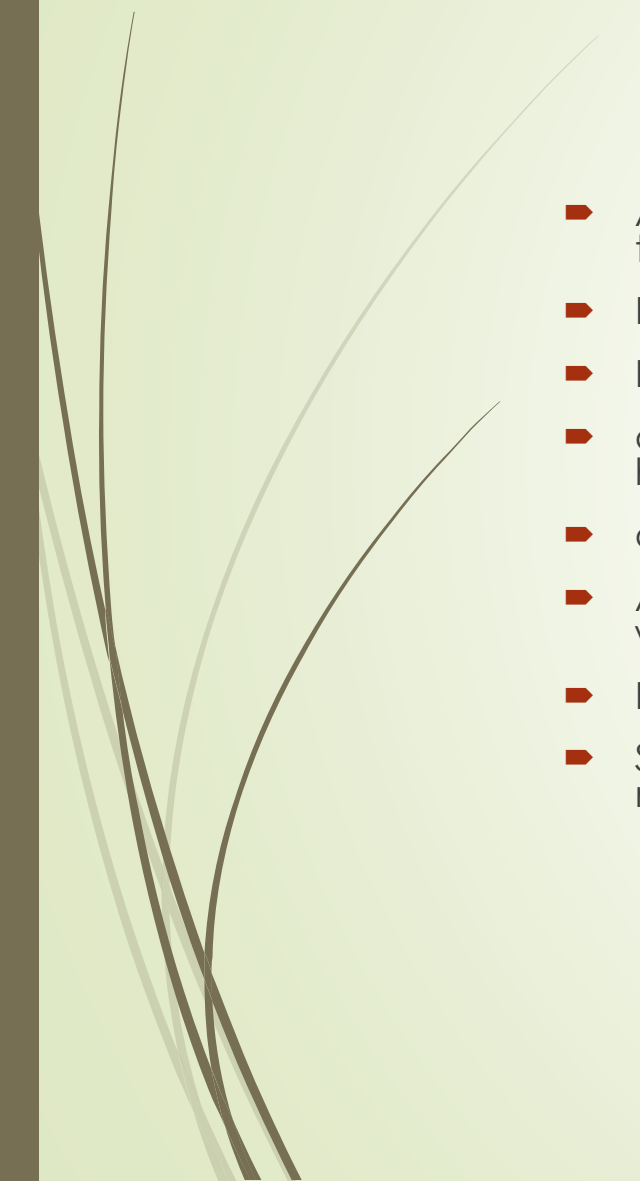
Keeping the family together in difficult times


SeLD 4204 Keeping the Church family together in difficult times

The Church is the body of believers in Christ who come together for the common purpose of spiritual growth and sharing in the faith of Jesus. COVID-19 has created a challenge for the church family to come together physically, as they desire to grow and share together. However, all is not lost and there is no impossibility of staying together. This presentation considers the various subgroups of the church family, the social, spiritual, and physical needs of each group, and how pastors can provide leadership to meet those needs.

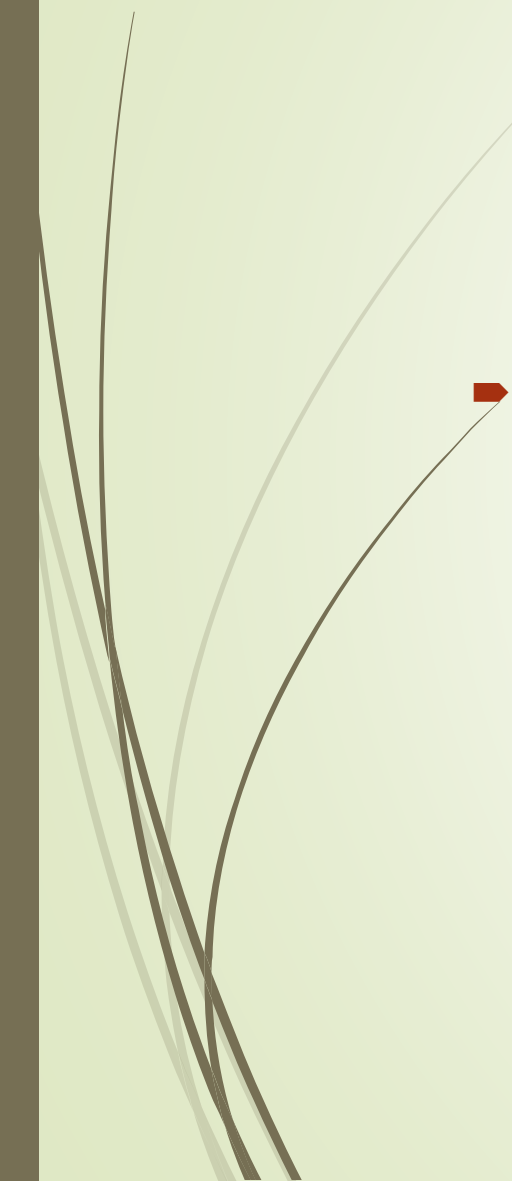


We are a family called church

- At that time you were without Christ, alienated from the citizenship of Israel and alienated from the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world.
 - But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
 - For he is our peace, who has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall,
 - abolishing in his flesh the enmity, the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, to create in himself one new man, making peace,
 - and through the cross to reconcile both in one body with God, killing in it the enmities.
 - And he came and preached the good news of peace to you who were far off and to those who were near;
 - For through him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.
 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:12-19.
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One of the objectives of the Family Life Ministry

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- Create a "family of God" experience in every Seventh-day Adventist church. The Family Ministry fosters an atmosphere in which diversity is respected and celebrated within the context of the congregation and the world church, recognizing that such unity is not found in uniformity but in Christ, the Head of the body. Through a shared commitment to a common message and mission and a mutual openness, honesty and vulnerability to one another's relationships, the unity we have found in Christ can be transformed into a living reality. (Libro de Reglamento Operativo DIA, página 453)

How a church can become a family

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➤ **STARTS WITH ANSWERING FOUR QUESTIONS:**

What are the general goals of the church

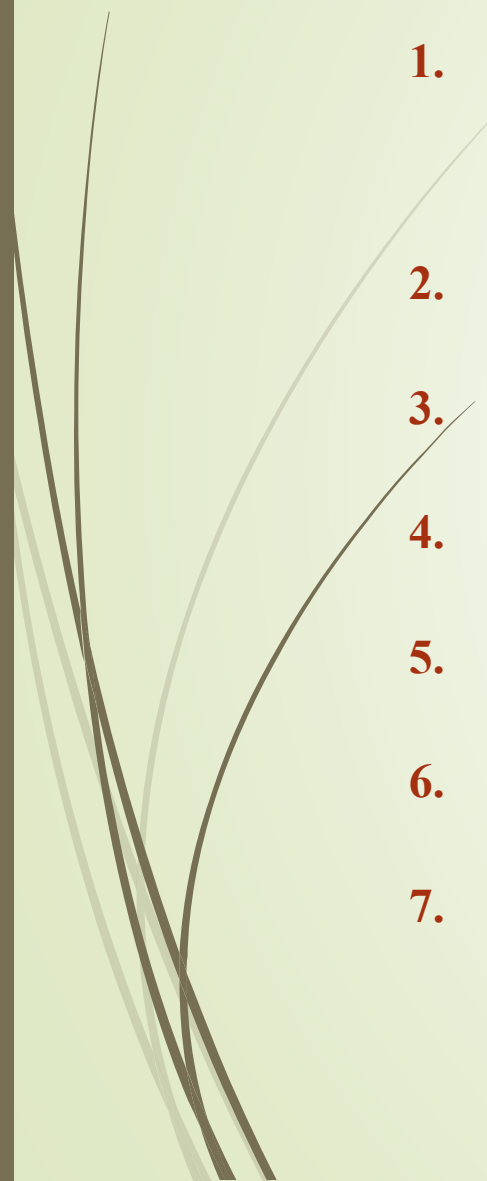
They know the needs of the parishioners.

What the church thinks of Family Life Ministry.

What resources they have



When these answers are right, the church becomes a place where

- 1. We experience with others the same acceptance, forgiveness, healing and love that Jesus offers.**
 - 2. The discouraged and lonely can find friendship and warmth.**
 - 3. The widowed and bereaved can find encouragement and hope.**
 - 4. The single find a family that includes them and gives them reasons to live.**
 - 5. The disabled find that their condition is not really a problem.**
 - 6. One can grow old without losing the feeling of being needed.**
 - 7. There is protection rather than prejudice and humiliation.**
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When these answers are right, the church becomes a place where...

8. Children are cherished as sacred treasures by the entire congregation.
9. Young people can freely and confidently go about their business with the assurance of being heard.
10. Newlyweds and married couples find themselves surrounded by a fellowship that forms a support network around them and creates a climate that helps them to grow.
11. People do not run away from difficult relationships, but rather confront them with love in a caring way.
12. Generations come together to learn from each other, to share the traditions that make us part of God's family and to help ensure that the torch of values is passed from one generation to the next.
13. People come out of their isolation and total preoccupation with material comfort to engage in the needs of other lives.
14. One does not need credentials to recommend oneself, where strengths and weaknesses are sifted together, where every gift is affirmed and needed, and where the person is what matters. Let's take care of today's families.

Handbook for Family Life Ministry, page 29)

"TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE" IS THE KEY

- **A CHURCH LIKE THIS, SETS A HIGH PRIORITY ON PEOPLE AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS.**
- **ALONG WITH THE THREE APPROACHES, THE KEY IS THE WARMTH AND HUMAN LOVE OF SPECIAL PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT OTHERS.**
- **EXCITING ARE THE POSSIBILITIES WHEN THOSE CHURCH MEMBERS HAVE THE ABILITY TO PRODUCE PROGRAMS FROM THIS FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY.**



Today the so-called family church functions only in the home.

- The influence of the church family is limited.
- The warmth of the church home can be unnoticeable.
- The concept of the church family can be distorted.
- The needs of families increase.
- Spiritual ministries are demanded.
- At a distance we can be closer too.
- Reorganize the family.



Some ideas to help the home church



1. Tend to the priest

"When they were near the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite; and coming there, they said to him:

'Who has brought you here? And what are you doing here? And what do you have here?

He answered them: In this and this manner hath he made me Micah, and taken me to be his priest.

And they said to him: "Ask God now, so that we may know whether this journey we are making will prosper.

And the priest answered them: "Go in peace, for your way is before the Lord. Judges 18:3-6

... "Let the father, as priest of the family, place on the altar of God the morning and evening sacrifice, while the wife and children join him in prayer and praise. Jesus is pleased to dwell in such a home. Patriarchs and Prophets. 140.



2. Tend to the "priestess"

- "If my husband is the priest of the household, who am I?"
- Prepared for the absence of the spiritual leader
- Prepared to exercise shared leadership.
- Empowered to use their God-given gifts and talents.
- Recognition for the role they play at home in times of peace and in times of war.



3. Every family member connected to heaven.

- Every member connected.
- Households without parents
- Single parent homes
- Singles
- Widowers
- Separated
- All



IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

Materials to retrain



**PRINCIPLES AND VALUES FOR
THE FAMILY OF SUCCESS**

Family Life Ministry Annual Materials Book- English, Spanish, French

family@gc.adventist.org



OUTLINE OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE FAMILY MINISTRIES CURRICULUM

I. BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

An understanding of the nature and purpose of marriage and the family, and ministry to families, based on the perspective of Scripture and Christian theology

II. Family and Mission

Understanding of families and family members as recipients and agents of the evangelizing mission

III. Families in Society

Understanding of families and their relationship to other institutions, such as educational, governmental, religious and occupational institutions, in society.

IV. Marriage dynamics and family

Understanding of the family process and how couples and family members relate to each other

V. INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Understanding the development and maintenance of interpersonal relationships. Based on knowledge:

VI. Parental guidance and guidelines

Understanding how parents nurture, teach, discipline and empower children and adolescents.

VII. Human growth and development

Understanding of changes in family members over the course of a lifetime

Human sexuality

Understanding sexual development throughout life, as the goal of healthy sexual adjustment Based on knowledge:

IX. Family resource management

Understanding of decisions made by individuals and families regarding the allocation of resources (e.g., time, money, material goods, energy, friends, neighbors, and space) to achieve their goals.

X. FAMILY LIFE ORIENTATION AND FAMILY ETHICS PROGRAM

Understanding of the general philosophy and broad principles of family life orientation, along with the ability to plan, implement and evaluate such programs.

Understanding of the character and quality of human social behavior, the ability to critically examine ethical issues and problems.



A space in space

- Part of the programming of the Union, local fields, districts and churches
 - Forums:
 - Discussions
 - Seminars
 - Sermons.
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