

Creative Care Ministries for Single Moms

Hope and Help for Single Mothers

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Single parents in our churches often find themselves ostracized and rejected by our church families because they don't fit the mold of the perfect Christian family. How our churches can reach out to these single parents and their families is the purpose of this discussion.

Five Most Important Areas of Need

There are 19 million single parents in the United States. Fifty-nine percent of American children will live in a single-parent family at least once during their minor years. In talking with single mothers, there are many things they have found helpful in establishing a healthy home for their children. Here are five of the most important.

I. A Strong Faith

A. Single moms are often in distress.

Hagar, the servant girl, was thrown out of the home of Abraham and Sarah. She was left to wander in the desert in isolation, with her son Ishmael (Genesis 16).

B. Single moms are special to God.

God sent an angel to minister to her. Single moms are special to God. If you read about Hagar, you will find that in her desperation she cried to God, "*Thou, God, seest me*" (verse 13). And He did.

C. God ministers to single moms.

He came alongside of her and ministered to her. He showed that He has a tender place in His heart for single moms.

II. A Support System

The church is a very important part of a single parent's support system.

A. Activate church ministries

1. Youth groups
2. Groups of men
3. Singles groups

- B. Provide materials that will strengthen, both spiritually and emotionally, your single parents.

III. A Secure Job

According to the Family Research Council, the poverty rate for children of single parents is five times the rate for children living with two parents. It is therefore safe to assume that the majority of children of single parents in your church have financial needs. That need can only be met through proper employment. I mean by proper employment, those people who are unemployed and under-employed.

- A. Flextime
- B. Freelance jobs
- C. Job Finders or an employment agency
- D. Employers and proprietors within your church
- E. Job sharing

IV. A Safe Place For Their Children

We live in a predatory society, and single parents cannot afford to ignore this. Single parents are very concerned and rightfully cautious about the people providing childcare. Family members usually make the best providers.

- A. Daycare ministry – screen employees
- B. Nightcare ministry
- C. Training

V. Some Private Time

Everyone needs some time alone, but this is especially true for single parents. Making a martyr out of oneself for the children will take its toll on the quality of any parent's relationship with their child.

- A. Mom's Day Out
- B. Friday Night Friendship Club
- C. Fashion Share
- D. Scriptures for single mothers

Closing Thoughts

God has a special place in His heart for single parents. They need to talk to Him on a regular basis about being overwhelmed by the needs of their children. They need to seek Him for wisdom, patience, and guidance. He wants to come alongside of them and strengthen them for the task