



10 Best Family Ministry Moves - Team Discussion Guide -

A two-year alliance of leading churches identified 10 elements of family ministry excellence. Each is an important “Lego block” for sustained impact. Use this guide to facilitate a team dialogue about your present reality.



EMPOWER A VISIONARY CHAMPION: If everyone owns it, no one does. Make it clear which senior leader is responsible for keeping “faith at home” objectives on the team’s radar screen.

- ✓ Has a champion been named?
- ✓ Has that person been adequately empowered to drive change?
- ✓ Does that person have enough influence with senior leaders?



ESTABLISH SUCCESS MEASURES: What gets measured gets done. Introduce simple measures that will keep you focused on family-centered strategies and drive continual improvement.

- ✓ What do you currently measure/determine success?
- ✓ If clear, how often is it used to influence your strategies?
- ✓ If only attendance measures, how can you move toward impact measures?



BUILD UPON EXISTING CHURCH VISION: Do not compete with the existing church vision. Build upon it to drive family-centered strategies. Don’t call the church to change everything, but to make everything more effective.

- ✓ Do you have a clear vision statement such as “Share Christ, Build Believers” used to frame all programs, priorities, etc.?
- ✓ Does your current family impact strategy compete with that vision?
- ✓ How could it reinforce/support the vision more effectively?



USE EXISTING TIME SLOTS: Incorporate a family emphasis into main-street time slots and programs rather than squeeze them in as exceptions or special events. Most attendees attend a worship service: some a small group. When you add a third time slot participation drops dramatically.

- ✓ How often do you emphasize family intentionality in the main worship service?
- ✓ Do you mostly rely on 3rd time slot events/experiences to address family needs?
- ✓ How might you better leverage the main time slots and church calendar events to create a church-wide culture?



USE “HOME LENS” FOR ALL PROGRAMS: Every department must own the appropriate part of your family ministry vision by using “faith at home” lenses to evaluate/enhance what they already do rather than creating yet another program competing for attention and resources.

- ✓ What are the existing, unforced opportunities to highlight family intentionality in each of your current ministry programs such as worship services, small groups, holiday activities, etc.?
- ✓ What simple changes could be made to increase the emphasis within each context?



DEFINE SUCCESS FOR FAMILIES: Give families a vision of what success at home means and repeatedly call them to commitment and intentionality.

- ✓ Do you see signs that your people fail to understand God’s design for the home?
- ✓ How often do you teach/highlight/showcase what it means to create a God-honoring family?
- ✓ How often do you challenge/call to commitment in this arena?



INVEST IN TOOLS FOR FAMILIES: Just like we invest in curriculum for Sunday school, we need to invest in tools that will make it easier for families to do the right thing.

- ✓ How much does each ministry spend on resources used for the 1-3 hours people are at the church or in a small group?
- ✓ What budget is available to provide tools to help them in the context of the home?



CUSTOMIZATION – ONE SIZE WON’T FIT ALL: Every family is unique due to their life-season, ages and number of children, marital health, and special circumstances. Provide tools that make it easy for families to customize.

- ✓ What is the demographic and life season mix of your current congregation?
- ✓ What resources/programs do you provide to help each become more intentional about building a God-honoring marriage, influencing the faith of children/grandchildren, etc.?



TWO DEGREES AT TIME: A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow. It is better to start small and build momentum than try to change everything all at once or achieve complete buy-in from all sectors before moving forward.

- ✓ What is the one step you can take this week to move toward a more impactful family ministry at your church?