

Activity 5.1

A Family Ministry Plan

Based on Chapters 14, 15, and 16 of Garland (1999), *Family Ministry* (InterVarsity).

90 minutes

Pick a family issue that you would like to see your congregation address, perhaps a family type that you think is being ignored (families of children with developmental disabilities, single adults and their families, the relationship between adults and their aging parents), or a challenge of Christian living in families (anger management and conflict resolution, forgiveness and reconciliation, intimacy and boundaries). Take an hour to develop a comprehensive plan which addresses the following questions:

1. What kind of information would be needed to develop your plan? How would you go about obtaining that information? (surveys, key informants, census data, etc.)
2. For purposes of this assignment, sketch out what you think you might learn and base the rest of your work on this sketch (e.g., "based on the Church Census, we found that a significant number of families in this congregation are challenged by anger and conflict resolution. We privately interviewed 25 different members of our congregation, from the youth group to the senior adults. Many indicated that (1) there is too much arguing in their families; (2) problems don't seem to be resolved; and (3) they feel badly about being angry with family members and wish they could work through differences without hurting one another.")
3. Using the Chart 14.1, decide whether you will focus on specific families in your congregation and/or community, or all families in your congregation and/or community, and whether you will focus on coping with life stressors or building family strengths.
4. Using the Chart 14.3, plan the Goals and the Content of your family ministry plan.

5. If this plan is successful, how will you know it? How do you imagine this congregation will be different from how it is now?

Present your plan to the class.(30 minutes).

<http://www3.baylor.edu/CFCM/old/TR/activity05-1.htm>