**SINGLE-PARENT MINISTRY**

**Joseph Northcut, Director of Church Ministries**

**SingleandParenting.org**

Single parents represent a rapidly growing segment of our population. They need the help and hope you can provide through a single-parent ministry offered at your church. Here’s a simple worksheet to help you define and determine if God is calling you and your church to offer such a ministry. Take some time to evaluate the questions below. They will help you in the planning of your single-parent ministry.

**WHY ARE YOU ENTERING THIS MINISTRY?**

1 Why are you, personally, entering this ministry?

2 Why is your church undertaking a single-parent ministry?

3 What are the needs you are trying to address?

4 In what ways are these goals consistent with the overall objectives of your church?

5 What form will the group take (e.g., weekly meetings for 13 weeks, a weekend kickoff event followed by weekly groups)?

6 If you plan to meet weekly, how many 13-week cycles will you hold each year?

**SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

1 Does your pastor support the formation of a single-parent ministry? Summarize the concerns and/or encouragement you have received from your pastor.

2 Do you have the support of your church board (elders, deacons, etc.)? Summarize their questions, concerns and encouragement.

3 If you have not yet obtained support of the pastor and church board, do you need to schedule a presentation of your plans and ideas to help secure such support? What questions do you envision they will ask?

4 What obstacles need to be overcome before launching your ministry?

5 Who will have primary oversight of your single-parent ministry?

6 If you are the person who will lead, what strengths do you have? What are your weaknesses?

7 Make a list of people who might be able to assist in leadership.

8 What funds are available in the church budget to support your ministry? Have you sought budget approval?

**WHAT IS THE LONG-RANGE VISION FOR SINGLE-PARENT MINISTRY AT YOUR CHURCH?**

1 Write a short description of the type of single-parent ministry you envision for your church five years from now.

2 What is your dream for the future of this ministry?

For more information, go to [www.singleandparenting.org](http://www.singleandparenting.org) or contact Joseph Northcut at 800-395-5755 or jnorthcut@churchinitiative.

© MMXI by Church Initiative