



The basics in educating your church staff about single adult ministry

(Distribute: this can be emailed, handed to them or explained during a staff meeting.)

Not every church is called to have a single adult ministry, but we are all called to minister to single adults.

We are ALL responsible for:

- Getting to know the single adults in our church by name, knowing their children's names, and learning about their lives.
- Providing opportunities to involve single adults in a variety of areas in the church*
*Although having programs targeting the needs of single adults is good, blending single adults into various aspects of the church is important too. How better can a single adult who wants to be married or a broken single parent see a successful marriage/family?
- Understanding the needs of single adults. Ages vary considerably from 18 to 80. While some may have specific needs, requiring one-on-one attention, others may desire a larger group setting. Some singles may need to stay in blended classes and small groups if they are inviting married people to church and want to attend class together.
Every community is different and its needs need to be evaluated rather than adopting an approach that works for another church.
- Praying for our single adults.
- Understanding the demographics of the single adults in our church and in our area.
- Developing a desire to meet the needs of single adults through staff, training, programs, small groups, etc.

Main categories of single adults:

- Never married
- Formerly married (divorced)
- Widowed
- Single parent family
- Separated (realized that these individuals are still legally married)

Become aware of special needs:

- Most single adults over 30 live alone and may be unable to meet financial obligations, home repair, health issues, babysitting needs, etc.
- If a single adult misses church one Sunday, will someone call and check on them?
- Be aware of churches that have single ministries you can work with. [What do you mean???

Reaching single adults through marketing:

- Bulletin information on a regular basis (be sure to list single adults as you would families or youth)
- Inserts for special events
- Inserts for small group promotions
- Ads in various local papers or on the radio to emphasize small groups (list the age range)
- Direct mail or listings to promote singles' events
- Let single adults be greeters, looking for other single adults or families
- Have a brochure or small group list available in the foyer of the church



- Free PSA on the radio about your church (listing the small groups)
- Have a website explaining how you cater to single adults and include links to sites of interest
- Bring in a single adult speaker or a speaker who is single and successful
- Single Sunday every six to twelve months with after-church lunch open to all singles with a special speaker

Become sensitive to your language:

- Single adults are not comfortable when the word "family" is used a lot. For example, instead of "Family Night Dinner", call it "Church Fellowship Dinner".
- Single parent "families" (they haven't stopped being a family just because one spouse is gone)
- Single "adult" versus just the word single
- Singles that are 18 to 25ish prefer "young adult"
- Not every single adult wishes to be reminded of their singleness

Become sensitive to types of events and programs that exclude single adults:

- What are the attitudes of the church in relating to single adults?
- Do you have too many family or spouse-focused events?
- Do you host Valentine's Day events that encourage a partner?
- Do you charge less for events for married couples than single adults?
- Do you assume that single adults need married folks to teach them or vice versa?

Where to start?

You can start with a survey* of the single adults in your church. Ask them who they are, what their desires are, and how can they best be ministered to. Next, look at your area of leadership and think of how you can minister to single adults. For more information on how your church can minister to single adults (including a staff description), contact Kris Swiatocho with The Singles Network Ministries at Kris@thesinglesnetwork.org

*Sample available on website