

Fathers' Studies: Family Responsibilities

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 47 OF 52

FAMILY MINISTRY

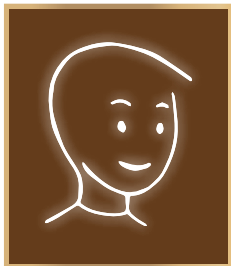
LESSON AIM: To encourage fathers to lead their families in serving others.

KEY VERSE:

1. **ACTS 21:8-9** Philip was a(n) _____. His daughters were active in _____.
2. **JAMES 1:27** Pure religion is this: to take care of _____ and _____.
3. **MATTHEW 20:28** Jesus did not come to be served, but to _____.
4. **MATTHEW 25:38-40** To God, serving needy people is the same as serving _____.
5. **ACTS 16:33-34** The Philippian jailer and his family were filled with joy after they trusted Jesus and gave _____ to Paul and Silas.

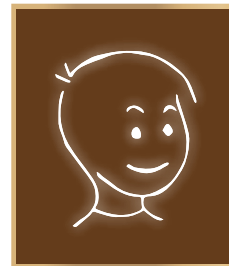
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



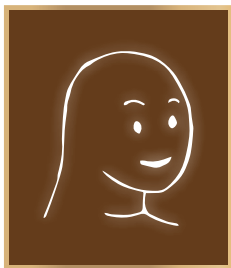
By Yourself

Ask God to show you ways your family can help others.



With Your Children

Encourage them and show them by your example how to be kind and helpful to small children, elderly, and sick or disabled people. Do something together as a family to help a needy person.



With Your Wife

Offer to do some housework for your wife so that she will have time to write letters or do other kind deeds for someone.

Serving people together as a family has many benefits. It builds family unity because the family is working together. It builds good values for the children by teaching them to serve God and help people. It builds friendships with others. And it is a way of witnessing for the Lord.

Family ministry does not require special training or abilities. Any family can minister together for the Lord. But it takes time, planning, and commitment.

Here are some ways in which your family may be able to minister.

VISITING THE SICK. Sick people need encouragement. Elderly people especially enjoy children. Visit them at home or in hospitals. (Matthew 25:35-36)

INVITE PEOPLE TO YOUR HOME A Christian home should be a hospitality centre. You can share your food, shelter, and encouragement with the needy. All members of the family can help with this. (Luke 14:13, Hebrews 13:2)

SHARING WITH A WIDOW Share food with her. Bring her firewood if she needs it. Be available to help. (James 1:27)

VISIT OTHER FAMILIES Help their family life grow stronger as you show them how yours is growing.

SING TOGETHER FOR OTHERS Sing for church services. Sing for the elderly. Sing for the sick. Music from the heart touches the hearts of others. (Colossians 3:16)

CLEANING THE CHURCH Volunteer the services of your family to clean the church. If this makes your schedule too full, find another interested family who will do it every other week.

...IF ONE OF YOU WANTS TO BE GREAT, YOU MUST BE THE SERVANT OF THE REST. (MATTHEW 20:26 TEV)

Benefits of family ministry:

- unites the family
- develops good values
- serves God and people
- witnesses for Christ

Family ministry does not require special training or abilities.

Family ministry requires:

- time
- planning
- commitment

Methods of ministry:

- visiting
- inviting
- sharing
- singing
- working

WINDOW TO LIFE

Donald and his family live by trapping and hunting. When they come home from the trap line, they take some of their catch to the minister and his family who do not have time to go trapping. Then they give some to their grandmother who is too old to go out anymore.

Through his trap line Donald has developed a family ministry. With the animals they trap, his family is able to give to the Lord's work, help the elderly and needy and still provide for their own family needs.

