

2011 Leadership Conference

Workshop A – Developing a Family Ministry Plan

October 22 – 11:15-12:30

υ How many of you have a well defined and stated plan for ministry to the family of your church?

You are probably like us:

- Church started in a home
- As it grew = kids moved upstairs – Mom and Dad stayed downstairs
- Built building → adult worship & classrooms; kids worship & classrooms
- Moved to bigger buildings → adults and kids in separate buildings
- Moved students off campus
- Moved here → complicated system of getting kids checked in...

Church experience for families → arrive together in the mini van; split up; meet back at the van in a few hours.

Personal Journey

I saw this happening week after week. Basically, families were arriving together and then separating – each to go to their own ‘church within a church’. Parents were bringing their children to the ‘professional Christians’ to have them taught about God. The family was basically segregated almost 100% of the time!

≧ **So for me I had to answer the first big question – Where am I?**

When I asked this question – it started me on a yearlong journey. Where was God leading me? I realized that I’m a husband and a Dad and that the family was ‘ringing my bell.’ I wanted to do family ministry. That required some changes: my role here; the church’s priority of family; etc...

At the end of almost a year I transitioned into Family Ministry. Marriage, parenting & children's.

∅ **The second big question I had to answer was – where is the church?**

- We were in the middle of developing the new M/V/S – connect; pray; strategy #3 – Build spiritually healthy homes by equipping godly men to lead and pray for their family.
- We were currently operating in 'Programmatic Model' of ministry – ministries operated in separate silos. Anything 'Family ministry' was something extra.
- Evaluation/explanation of different family ministry models –
Perspectives on Family Ministry by Paul Renfro.
 - **Programmatic Ministry Model** – ministries are organized in separate silos with little intergenerational interaction. Family Ministry is just one more program.
 - **Family-based Ministry Model** – Church's programmatic structure remains the same, but each separate ministry plans and programs in ways that intentionally bring families together and encourage parents to take part in the discipleship of their children.
 - **Family-Equipped Ministry Model** – Although age-organized programs and events still exist, the church is restructured to draw generations together. Parents are equipped to be the primary spiritual trainers for their children.
 - **Family-Integrated Ministry Model** – The church eliminates age segregated programs. All programs and events are multigenerational with a strong focus on parent's responsibility to evangelize and disciple their own children.
- **Answer:** where was SCC? We were #1 and are moving toward #2. Not sure #3 or #4 will work in our culture – at this time.

⊂ **So how did we begin to move?**

- Began praying, fasting and seeking God's direction for the ministry.
- Three main components: [works for us – may not for your setting]
 - Marriage – Rich Shanks
 - Scheduling, pre-marital classes, wedding ceremony, marriage mentors...
 - Parenting – Me
 - Life stage structure – support, educate, model & encourage parents throughout child's life.
 - Hand out overview and Milestone pages.
 - Children's Ministry
 - Moved toward the Orange Model – the church and parents partnering together for the spiritual development of child.