

# STRENGTHEN AND GROW YOUR MINISTRY

## LCEF MINISTRY MOMENTS VIDEO SERIES

### Engaging Segments of the Congregation: Families with Young Children

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Most congregations feel they are strongest in their ministry to families with young children. A strong children's ministry is used to help the whole family get engaged in the church. However, once children complete confirmation, entire families often drift away from church life.

#### How to engage families in ways that keep them connected long term?

##### 1. Strategic engagement

- It's not enough to keep children and families busy in the church through their development years.
- There needs to be a plan to move the whole family forward in faith.

##### 2. Parents as spiritual leaders

- As you develop a strategic plan for children, don't forget the parents. Many parents return to the church because they want to be spiritual leaders for their families, but they don't know how.
- Grow parents into the spiritual leaders of their homes as you grow their children's faith in Jesus.

##### 3. Milestones of faith

- Develop milestones of faith that move children along in developmentally appropriate spiritual growth plans.
- Baptism, first children's Bible for parents to read to little ones, child's own first Bible, taking on a role as spiritual leader with younger children, Confirmation, etc.
- Think of the outcomes you look for in a fully matured disciple of Jesus, then look at how you are intentionally developing these characteristics in your children's program.

##### 4. Parents connected to the community

- Be intentional about connecting parents to the community of the church.
- Teach biblical parenting and make space for parents to build friendships and support systems.
- Keep growing the parents in ways that match what you're teaching the children.