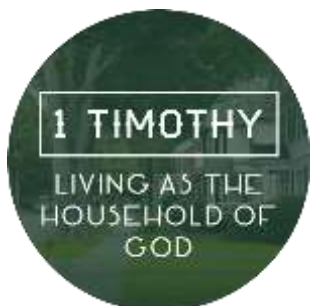


# Engaging parents positively

Partnering with families.

Partnering with parents = Growing healthy church families



**Aim =** The local church is the family of God where we learn about Him. **A healthy church family strengthens and encourages home families.**



## I. INTRO

When we say the word family – there’s a huge variety. It’s amazing they got to church!

We are pretty varied too! We bring our backgrounds and problems with us - into the church family.

I hope in this seminar...

- We’ll be encouraged to look around and see that we’re already trying to be a healthy church family = strengthening home families.
- We’ll appreciate the time to think and ponder together about how we can help the church family love the home family a little more (esp as those training others/leading a team...)

## II. WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

### 1) The spiritual reality

*“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.” 1 Tim 5v1-2 (See also: Eph 2v19-22; 1 Cor 12v12; Eph 5v1, Proverbs, Matt 6v9, 1 John 1v12 and more).*

### 2) Parents have been given the primary responsibility by God

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”[a] 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord”. Eph 6v1-4 (See also: Deut 6; Eph 6v1-4; Ps 78v1-4; Proverbs ‘listen my son’; 1 Tim 3v4-5 and more)*

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### 3) Healthy churches support parents and families

*“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body.” 1 Cor 12v12-13 (See also: Acts 2v42-47. Eph 4v11-16. Deut 31v12-13 and more)*

*‘There are two powerful influences on the planet – the church and the home. They both exist because God initiated them. They both exist because God desires to use them to demonstrate His plan of redemption and restoration. If they work together they can potentially make a greater impact than if they work alone. They need each other. Too much is at stake for either one to fail.’*

*(Orange book)*

### III. CREATE A VISION

Think about your context and your setting... you're the expert in this!

Q. What are ways your church family is a church family? = Hurray, thank God for this!

Q. How can God help you encourage the church family to encourage home families?

Q. How might you seek to ask God to help you encourage home families to be a part of the church family? What do Ben and Sue want their family to be like?

*What a joy church family is - thank God for yours! Ask Him to help you keep learning how to encourage and love them.*

### IV. SO... HOW CAN WE (as the church) STRENGTHEN AND ENCOURAGE HOME FAMILIES?