

PASTORAL: Marriage & Family



Statistics

- Due to the intensity of ministry work, 59 percent of pastors reported not having a private life because their calling impacted their closest relationships.
- Eighty percent of pastors acknowledge that their pastoral work has a negative impact on their families.

Impact on the Family

- Family members feeling "less important" than ministry
- Reduced quality time and quantity of time together
- Pressure to meet unrealistic expectations
- Unmet spiritual and emotional needs
- Strained or non-existent communication
- Lack of privacy
- Neglect
- Unbalanced priorities
- Divorce

What God says

- Prioritize (Matt. 6:33; Prov. 16:3; 22:6; Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 5:8)
- Establish boundaries (Eccles. 3:1; Rom. 12:2)
- Care for one's family (1 Tim. 3:4–5)
- Balance the ministry load (Exod. 18:17–21)
- Rest (Exod. 20:9–11)

"The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance."
—Proverbs 21:5a (ESV)

Plan it!

- Utilize a family calendar to plan weekly family time.
- Schedule rotating date nights with spouse.
- Block out dates to spend one-on-one time with each family member.

Tips

- Do not speak about ministry work during family time.
- Keep distractions to a minimum (put phone down, etc.).
- Be creative with communication (games, trivia, family devotions).

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