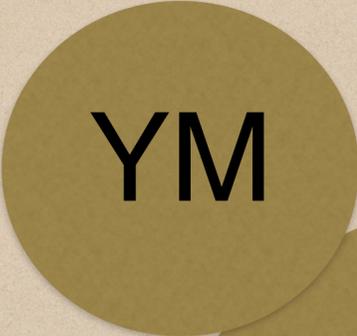


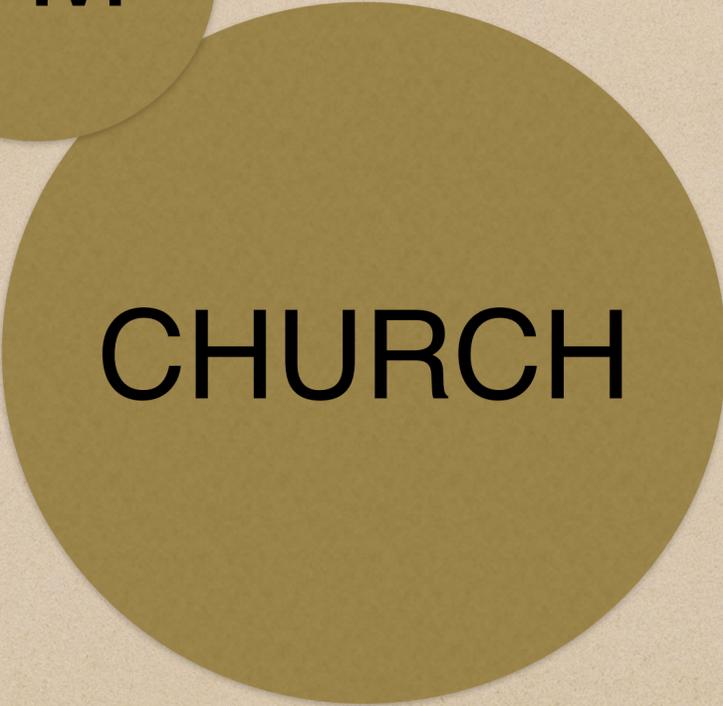


**FIVE
MISTAKES
CHURCHES MAKE
IN FAMILY MINISTRY**

One-Eared Mickey Mouse

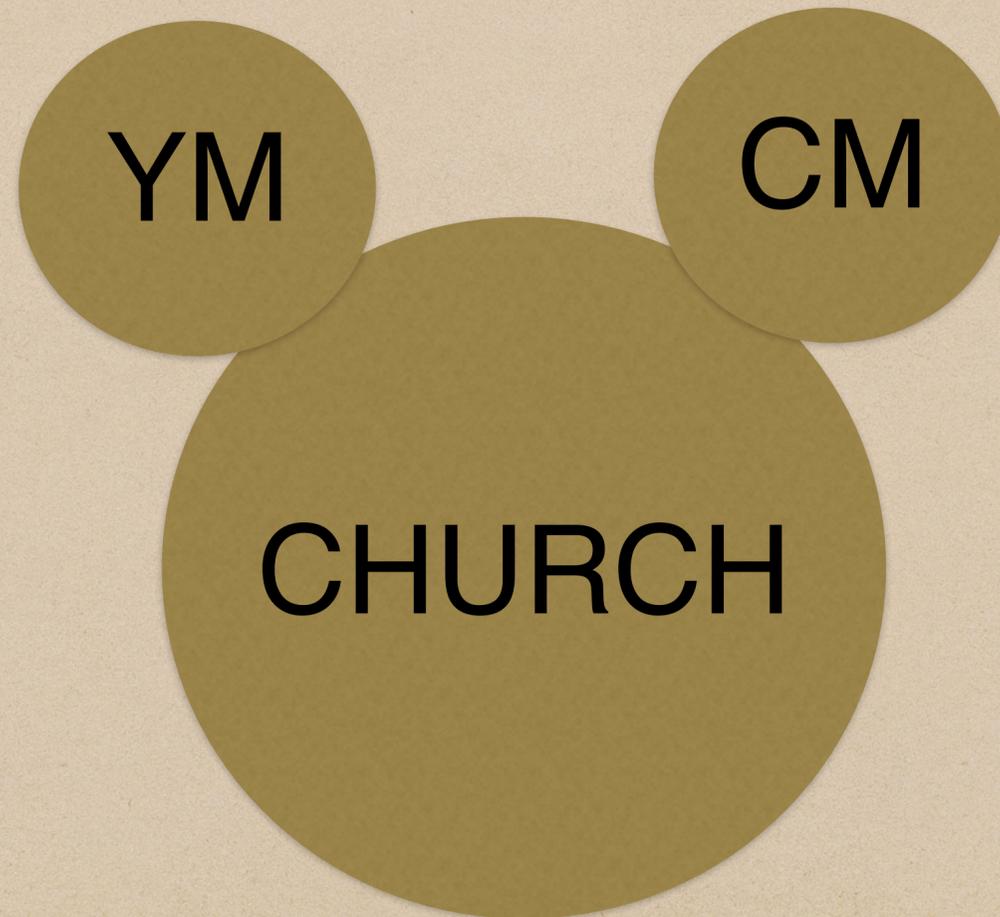


YM



CHURCH

Two-Eared Mickey Mouse





What is Family Ministry?

Family Ministry



Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry



Foundational Children's Ministry



Engaging Youth Ministry

FAMILY MINISTRY



Practical and Helpful Parent Ministry

Mistake #1

Overestimate the Church's Impact

- ◆ We have bought into the formula that:

Kids and Teens + Our Church = Lifelong Christians

**“WHAT PARENTS HAVE DONE IS THEY HAVE
SUBCONTRACTED THE SPIRITUAL LIVES OF
THEIR KIDS TO THE CHURCH.”**

– CHAP CLARK

Mistake #1

Overestimate the Church's Impact

- ♦ We have bought into the formula that:

Kids and Teens + Our Church = Lifelong Christians

- ♦ We can often communicate that the most important part of a child's spiritual formation happens at the church.

Church Events/Programs + Good Information = Transformation

PARENTS HAVE BEEN WILLING TO **USE**
THE TOOLS WE'VE GIVEN THEM
(CHURCH PROGRAMS, RESOURCES, ETC)
TO DISCIPLE THEIR KIDS INSTEAD OF
BE THE TOOLS GOD USES
TO DISCIPLE THEIR KIDS.

Mistake #2

Underestimate the Church's Role

- ◆ When we simply tell parents they are the primary spiritual leaders for this kids and don't help them do it, we put an enormous amount of pressure on them.
- ◆ When we see our role as primarily content and "truth" delivery, we underestimate where we can REALLY have an impact on a kid or student's life - RELATIONSHIPS

Mistake #3

Change Titles and Not Strategies

- ♦ Often churches will add “and Families” onto an existing job title and expect change. Real change rarely happens.
- ♦ Shifting titles but not strategies often gives ministry directors and pastor a job description they have no power to execute.
- ♦ When nobody is “in charge” of an initiative (say, “Family Ministry”) then no one keeps an eye on the big picture.

Mistake #4

Add More Family Events

- We (normally) ask for a lot of real estate on the family calendar. We feel the pressure to have events/programs.
- We have a lot of events and programs for families simply because “we’ve always done it” and no one has really asked if these events are helpful and effective.
- We hear that we need to “partner with parents” so we rush to add a parent seminar without an overall strategy.

Mistake #5

Forget the Modern Family

- ◆ We often portray the perfect family and send the message that the church is only for families that have it all together.
- ◆ We often fail to think through how to help single parents NOT feel like they are different and somehow less than.
- ◆ We forget to acknowledge and help grandparents who have sometimes taken on an increasing role.

SOLUTIONS

Solution to Overestimating the Church's Impact

Help Parents Embrace Their God-Given Role

- ♦ Put REAL energy towards helping parents embrace and live into this role.
- ♦ Create and provide resources that actually help parents live into this role.

Solution to Underestimating the Church's Role

Facilitate Community and Provide Safe Spaces for Families

- ◆ Connect kids and students to significant adults who can walk with them through life.
- ◆ Connect kids and students to people from older generations.
- ◆ Connect parents to other parents who can help them navigate their faith and parenting journey.

Solution to Changing Titles and Not Strategies

Someone Has to Have the Authority
to OWN IT and Know How to Do It

- ◆ Help your church work towards having a single “owner” of Family Ministry (even if that person has other responsibilities).
- ◆ Begin to tell stories of families, not just kids and youth.
- ◆ Help create initiatives that bring a Whole Family Ministry together.

Solution to Adding More Family Events

Creating Space in The Calendar for Family Ministry

- When creating events, run them through the filter of a collaborative strategy for all parts of the family (kids, youth, and parents).
- When is the last time you did something JUST for parents?

Solution to Forgetting the Modern Family

Make Space For All Families

- Work hard to build authentic relationships with families who aren't the "typical" family and let them know you care.
- Pay attention to the words you use in announcements, e-mails, and messages and make sure they are inclusive to all families.
- Include non-parents in your ministry. They are a part of a/the family too.



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