

# Values Matter Discovery Starters

## We Value People

### 15. VALUE FAMILIES

YWAM affirms the importance of families serving God together in missions, not just the father and/or mother. We also embrace the inclusion of single-parent families. We encourage the development of strong and healthy family units, with each member sharing the call to missions and contributing their gifts in unique and complementary ways. We uphold and celebrate the Biblical view that God's intent for holy matrimony is between one man and one woman.

[Gen 2:21-24](#); [Gen 18:17-19](#); [Deu 6:6-7](#); [Pro 5:15-23](#); [Pro 31:10-31](#);  
[Mal 2:14-16](#); [Mat 19:3-9](#); [1Co 7:1-16](#); [1Ti 3:2-5](#); [Heb 13:4](#)

### Value #15 – Value Families: Doing Family and Ministry Together

#### Biblical Foundation:

*So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? (1Ti 3:2-5).*

#### Discovery Starter:

When our children were aged 15, 13, 11 and 9, God spoke to my wife Christine and me that he wanted to do something new with us as a family. After two decades serving on YWAM bases we felt we were to go "on the road" – visiting some of the most far-flung, least-visited YWAM communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. We called our children together to discuss the implications and seek the Lord. We did not rush the decision. Over the next several weeks we talked and prayed together often. When we were sure of the word of the Lord, we embarked on a new Great Commission adventure. Over the next 44 months we traveled and ministered together in 189 YWAM bases in 91 countries. All of us played a key part. Midway through our travels, a mission leader approached Sarah, my pre-teen daughter, and asked her, "How do you feel about your parents dragging you around the world?" Surprised, she looked him square in the eye,

“What do you mean? I’m dragging them,” she retorted. She clearly “owned” the ministry we were doing together as a family.

Some have proposed that God’s priority is, “God first, family second, ministry third.” Though well-intentioned, this formula is not found in Scripture. God’s instructions are simpler: God first. Period. There should be no conflict between family and ministry if we listen carefully to God, for he is the source of both. He who called you into ministry has not forgotten that he also called you to family. These two callings complement one another. It’s simple: seek God on every occasion and embrace his guidance together. He is Lord. As a family we are to hear and obey.

In Paul’s instructions to Timothy we see that leadership responsibilities and family life are interwoven together seamlessly. Marital and parental dynamics are really important. In fact, Paul’s final point is that how a person does family qualifies them for leadership in God’s family – the church. Family and ministry go hand in hand. We hold family in high regard and celebrate the fact that we can display the kingdom of God with our family.

### **Keep Going:**

Jesus, quoting Psalm 8:2, defended the role of children in ministry when he spoke to religious leaders (Mat 21:15-17). When Jesus spoke to his disciples (most of whom were single), he underlined the importance of children in his eyes. Jesus wanted to make sure that children were included in what he was doing (Mat 19:13-15; Mar 10:13-16; Luk 18:15-17). Take time to read these passages and – whether you are married or single – consider how you can take Jesus’ words to heart and not only include children in ministry, but place them front and center as Jesus did. Ask God to lead you to develop ministry expressions which honor and celebrate family.

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