

How To Support Ministry Families

Loving and supporting ministry families is important work! But sometimes, it's hard to know where to start. Borrow a few of these ideas...

Care For Your Pastor's Wife

- ❖ **Be authentic.** Give the pastor's wife the freedom to be herself by being yourself. Don't be afraid to be real and share your heart.
- ❖ **Don't carry tales.** Don't share what she told you in confidence if the pastor's wife chooses to confide in you.
- ❖ **Extend an invitation.** Invite the pastor's wife to do something fun with you outside of normal church activities. This shows her you value her company, not just what she does for the church.
- ❖ **Avoid talking church.** If the pastor's wife wants to bring up an issue, discuss it with her. But try not to talk about the church or critique her husband's job while you're chatting.
- ❖ **Don't compare her.** It's tempting to compare your current pastor's wife to the last one, but this only sows seeds of hurt. Give your new pastor's wife grace and get to know who she is and how God has gifted her.
- ❖ **Send a note.** A simple note encouraging your pastor's wife is sure to be a blessing.
- ❖ **Pitch in.** Let your pastor's wife know that she can call on you when she needs an extra set of hands.

Encourage The Pastor's Children

- ❖ **Let go of expectations.** Pastor's kids aren't all perfect or all bad. They're just regular kids, and they appreciate it when you treat them like it.
- ❖ **Offer grace.** When pastor's kids mess up, don't tell everyone or act high and mighty about it. Remember that Jesus said only those without sin could cast a stone.
- ❖ **Tell them to follow what they love.** Not every kid wants to grow up to be a minister like mom or dad. Reassure PKs that they can build their own identity.
- ❖ **Stop quizzing them.** No, a pastor's kid doesn't automatically know every Biblical fact simply because of who their parent is.
- ❖ **Share a story from your own life.** If someone is ragging on a pastor's kid, turn the tables by sharing a funny story from your life. You'll change the focus and flow of the conversation.
- ❖ **Focus on fun.** Many pastor's kids feel like they're living in a fishbowl, and they can't do anything without everyone staring. Remind them that it's OK to let loose and have fun.
- ❖ **Affirm pastor's kids.** If you see the pastor's kid is good at a hobby like art or music, let them know they have a gift. Be that cheerleader in their lives!

Pray For Ministry Families

❖ **Pray for your pastor's marriage.** Pastors are not immune to affairs, and in fact, their work can make the circumstances more likely. Pray that God protects your pastor's marriage from a third party.

❖ **Pray for your leader's integrity.** Just because someone is a church leader doesn't mean they're free from sin. Ask God to give your spiritual leader integrity and the desire to flee temptation.

❖ **Pray for your pastor's children.** Many PKs are exposed to the worst side of Christians and carry deep hurts from the church. Pray that these wounds do not become bitterness or hate towards the church.

❖ **Pray for your leader's wisdom.** Church leaders are regularly confronted with overwhelming situations and need the wisdom that only God can give.

❖ **Pray for your pastor's wife.** Many pastors' wives end up feeling neglected and alone due to their husband's busy schedule. Ask God to give your pastor sensitivity and compassion toward his wife.

❖ **Pray for your leader's walk with God.** When times get busy, it's easy for church leaders to put their relationship with God on the back burner. Pray that God gives each leader in your church a desire for increased intimacy with Him.

❖ **Pray for your pastor's rest.** Even Jesus needed time away to recharge. Ask God to help your pastor experience peace and rest, no matter what's happening around him.

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