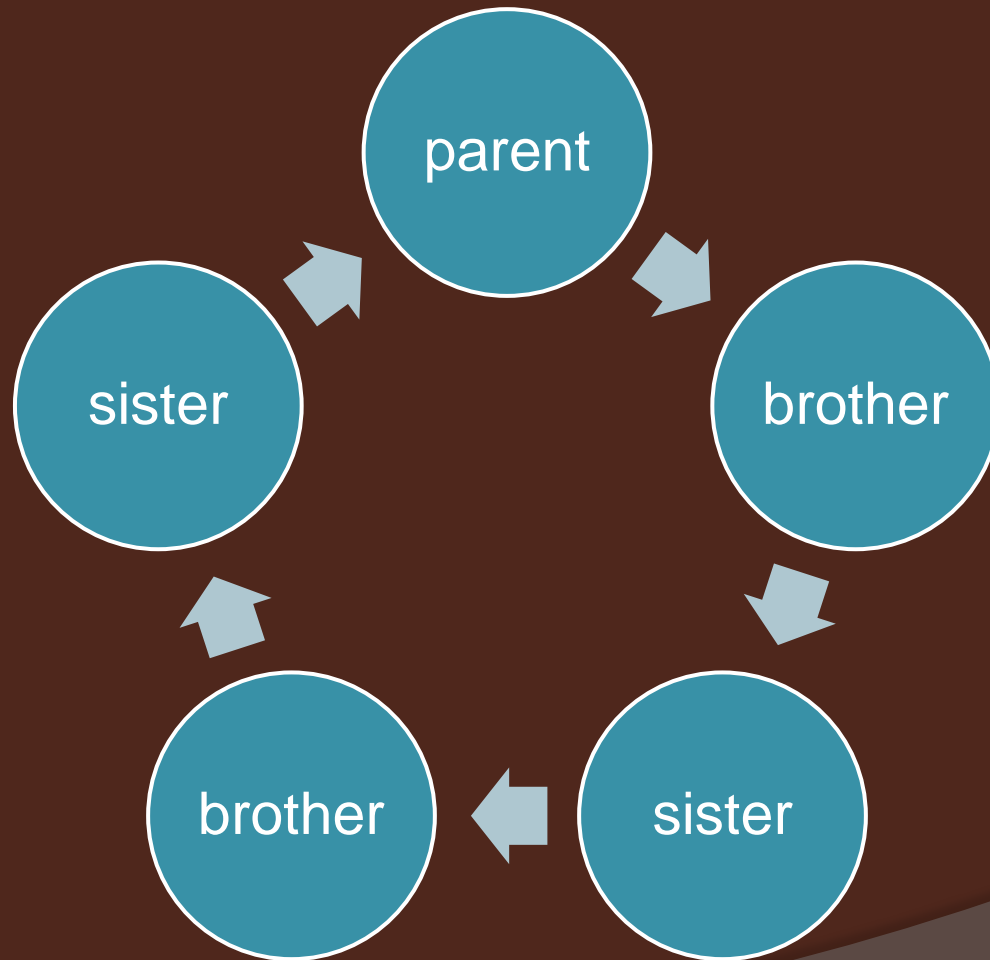


Family Ministry in Our Congregations

MISSION POSSIBLE

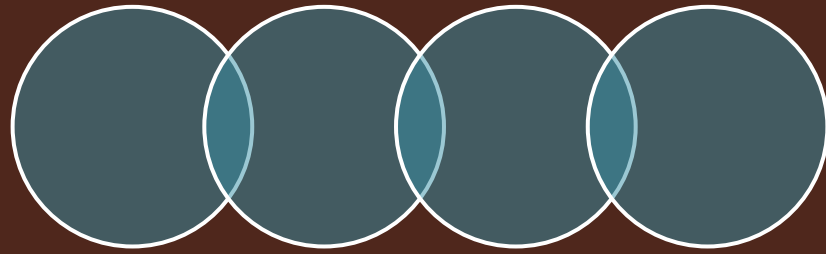
*Workshop for General Assembly
June, 2010
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

What is a Family?

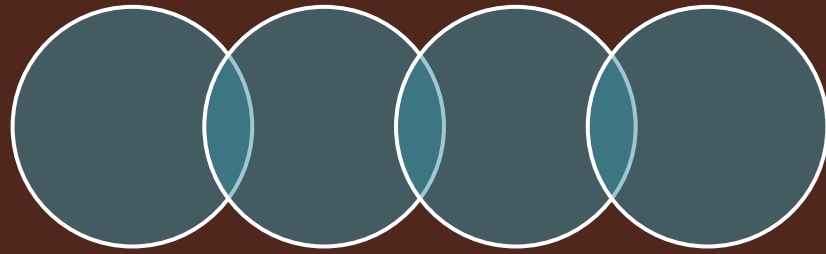


What is a Family?

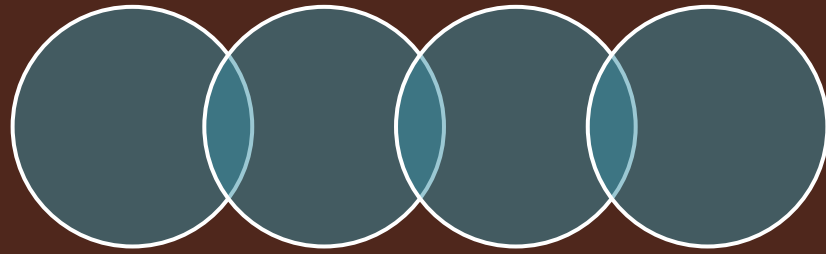
- Collection of Individuals
- Dynamic and continuously developing system of interconnected individuals



*Effective Family Ministry
supports and encourages
the family members
as individuals
and
as a dynamic unit*



*Effective Family Ministry
recognizes **the needs**
and
the demographics
of today's families*



*Effective Family Ministry
supports and encourages families
where they are and who they are
NOT
for how they ought to be*

Modern Demographics

- As of 2005, an estimated 270,313 children in the U.S. live in households headed by same-sex couples
- Nearly 4 in 10 (41%) births in the U.S. are to an unmarried woman and half of all non-marital births are to a cohabiting couple

Modern Demographics

- Only about half of all adults (18 years and older) in the U.S. are married
- Approximately 7 in 10 children live with two parents
- Both men & women are delaying marriage and planned pregnancy

Other Unique Challenges

- Military families are dealing with longer and more extended tours of duty lasting more than one year
- Parents are working more hours and taking work home with them to be done on their own time

Other Unique Challenges

- “Sandwich Generation”
- “Attachment Parenting”
- Over-scheduling
- Advances in technology

Families with children no longer feel a sense of obligation to attend church.

Participation in a religious community is often considered one option among many competing interests.

Since each family must learn to structure, organize, and manage itself around what it believes is important, what makes our congregations become priorities in family life?

Does your church schedule bring the individuals of the family unit together or keep them apart?

Is your congregation responsive to the unique needs of families in your area?

Does your congregation offer support and information to parents as the primary religious educators of their children?

Does your congregation offer support for parents in terms of relationship enrichment and parenting issues?