

Equipping Every Home for Ministry

FamilyLife's Local Ministry Guides



The Need

Research shows that the number of people attending church is dwindling. And for people who may have never stepped foot inside a church, who may be curious to learn more about this Jesus they have heard about, it can be overwhelming to think about visiting a church. It requires a great deal of courage for someone to walk into a church where they don't know anyone and they don't know what to expect. And that's on top of the work of convincing a reluctant spouse to join and the stress of getting the kids up and ready to get to the service on time.

If they don't go to the church, how can the church go to them? How can they hear more about Jesus where they are comfortable — where they know they can ask questions without being judged? A neighbor may be the answer.

The Solution

The Bible tells us that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few (Luke 10:2), meaning that there simply aren't enough full-time ministry workers to do all the work that needs to be done. As a result, church leaders, volunteers, and believers like you can help close the gaps by building relationships with couples and families in their communities and reach them with the hope of Christ.

FamilyLife is planning to increase the number of volunteers, pastors, and families to minister in the places we cannot. And we plan to help them learn how to live on mission right where God has them. As more volunteers, pastors, couples, and families join the movement, we will provide the necessary training and resources to equip them with the tools they need to build relationships and share Jesus with others.

The Impact

This was not what Brian* and Ashley* expected. They had just gotten married - this was supposed to be the wonderful honeymoon stage! But as they were nearing the end of a very busy few weeks with Brian's four daughters, Brian found Ashley hiding in their closet, sobbing into a pillow. They hadn't expected the unique challenges that stepfamilies face. Brian shared, "We both acknowledged that this was going to be more difficult than we'd expected and that we needed help on the journey."

Thankfully, things began to change. They started to have hope. Ashley's coworker gifted Ashley a copy of The Smart Stepfamily book authored by Ron Deal. Ashley began to read it and they joined a group of blended family couples that met at their church, where they went through the Smart Stepfamily video study. Brian and Ashley also attended a Weekend to Remember, where they heard about the Summit of Stepfamily Ministry event that FamilyLife blended offers. They now attend the event annually, lead the weekly blended group at church, and regularly facilitate the Smart Stepfamily video study.

Brian shared, "We are so passionate about sharing the same hope and encouragement with others, and because of FamilyLife's Blended programs and resources, we know we've become well-equipped to do this."

Your gifts have made resources like the Smart Stepfamily tools available to families like Brian and Ashley's. There are so many families around the world facing difficult challenges in their marriages and family relationships. Giving a gift today will help provide those practical tools and gospel-saturated resources to families who are searching for guidance and answers.

**Names changed for privacy.*



In December 2025, FamilyLife will be hosting our first Made4Mission Conference in Dallas. The conference is the follow-up event for the 20% of event attendees who indicated a desire to become local ministry guides. Made4Mission will help empower attendees to continue developing and growing their local ministry through networking and strategizing with others.

Looking Ahead

An additional 2,000 local ministry leaders trained to minister to the unique needs and struggles stepfamilies face.

An additional 6,000 U.S. pastors trained to minister to marriages and families in their churches and communities.

An additional 50,000 families living on mission to actively share the gospel and disciple marriages and families in their communities and countries around the world.



Praise God for an Impactful 2025



12,560 Weekend to Remember attendees expressed an interest in becoming guides.

Project Budget for 2026 & 2027

Local ministry & community outreaches	\$2,177,000
FamilyLife digital outreaches	\$2,810,000
Global initiatives and leader development	\$1,104,000
Ministry guide content development	\$486,700

Total cost of local guide initiatives	\$6,577,700
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