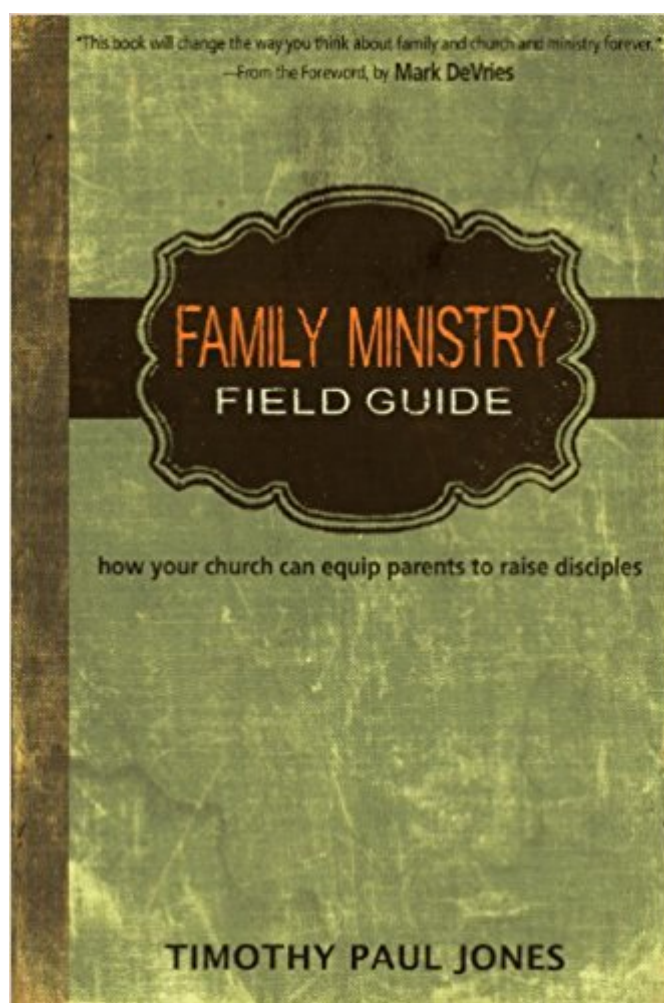


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# Family Ministry Field Guide: How Your Church Can Equip Parents To Make Disciples



## Synopsis

Scripture calls parents to train and nurture their children's faith. How can churches best equip families to disciple their children? Family ministry expert Dr. Timothy Paul Jones gives church leaders a practical plan to equip parents to be the primary faith trainers in their children's lives, moving beyond mere programming into genuine spiritual transformation. This resource is for leaders in the trenches--those who: see parents disengaging from their children's spiritual development, see too many students leave for college and drop out of church, or are frustrated with programmed ministries that fail to produce results. Based on solid research, this field guide unpacks how real-life churches can narrow the gap between present reality and the biblical ideal of faith-nurturing families.

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Wesleyan Publishing House; 5/16/11 edition (May 25, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0898274575

ISBN-13: 978-0898274578

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #56,492 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Education > Children & Teens](#) #10619 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality](#)

## Customer Reviews

Timothy Paul Jones is a best-selling and award-winning author of many books, magazine articles, and reference materials. He is senior editor of *The Journal of Family Ministry* and professor of leadership and church ministry at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was named by Charles W. Colson as one of four "Names You Need to Know."

The book was written by a professor of leadership and church ministry with experience in youth ministry. He wrote the book for church leaders who: - See parents disengaging from their children's spiritual development - See too many students leave for college and drop out of church or - Who are frustrated with programmed ministries that fail to produce results This very practical book discusses what families in your church are doing - and not doing with respect to the spiritual training of their

children. The main point being that "few parents are actively involved in their children's spiritual development." The book then goes into what a family-equipping ministry is and why it's worth it: "the process of intentionally and persistently coordinating a ministry's proclamation and practices so that parents are acknowledged, trained, and held accountable as primary disciple-makers in their children's lives."

This book found me at just the right time. Our church is in the process of trying to re-shape our midweek services (and overall strategy) to better reach/equip the families of our community. When family ministry gets brought up, images of extreme opinions often come to the surface and condemn efforts in Next Generation ministry. This book provides a healthy outlook on the topic that is fueled by an ocean of appropriately conducted research. If one spends just a few minutes looking into who Dr. Timothy Paul Jones is, they would find information on one of the most valuable voices in our world. Of course, I highly recommend this book to anyone who is willing to examine current practices and shelf/rethink current philosophies to better equip the primary disciplers of the children in our churches.

There has been a lot of discussion as of late regarding the importance of parents as the primary disciple-makers of their children/teens. Largely because of Jones' book here I've come to think that this discussion has often missed the mark. The rhetoric I've observed has largely gone something like this, "parents are the primary disciple-makers of children, and we want to make sure we convince them of this." However, he highlights well that most parents are already convinced of this truth and we do little to help them by bringing further emphasis to this truth. Where the real discussion should be happening is this: how do we EQUIP parents to succeed in their discipling of their children? A lack of clarity over who is the primary discipler is not the issue, the issue is simply pragmatic: how can we help parents in discipling their kids? Toward this end Jones has toiled on this resource. I'd recommend it for anyone within church leadership. Big takeaway? Don't just tell parents they are primary disciple-makers, equip them to maximize this role for God's glory.[...]

Of all the books on family ministry available right now, Family Ministry Field Guide is a must-have resource. Dr. Timothy Paul Jones skillfully synchronizes a biblical view of the natural family, the faith family, and a passion for bringing generations together to see the gospel of Jesus Christ passed on to children yet to be born. Dr. Jones puts to rest many of the statistical nightmares we hear about so frequently and helps us reframe our perspectives of family ministry by asking insightful questions.

He properly directs our gaze toward the gospel in terms of our motivations, goals, and our views of children, youth, and their families. Not only is this book like having a heart-to-heart with the author, but it is interlaced with excellent questions, team discussion guides, and appendices to assist in developing a family ministry that fits your church. Use this as a field-tested guide to lead you and others into a family ministry that will pass faith on for generations to come.

Dr. Jones is the best family minister. In many cases, many ministers easily think that the church needs a new way in order to become a family ministry church. However, family ministry is not about a method, but about a mind for the gospel. In this respect, this book is good for your family ministry. Remember. Family ministry does not mean a special and sensational methods for ministry. Family ministry is the accomplishment of the gospel in our homes and the gospel must be spread to others. Dr. Jones' family ministry is written on the basis of the verse, Duet 6:4 and moves toward the verse Matt 28:18-20 in our families.

As both a children's minister and a teacher of children's ministry I found this book challenging, and at the same time, addressing the very needs I have felt in the field. If I could I would buy it for every pastor, children's pastor, and parent that I know (quite a few). Sadly I can't. I will be buying a few copies for the library of the seminary I teach at and for a few pastors. If you are on the fence about purchasing this book, take the plunge. You won't regret it.

This book covers all the basics for turning a church into a gospel centered family emphasizing force. I will keep this handy as I proceed in my pastorate.

very pertinent and practical

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