

In This Together: Care for Families in Ministry

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- Introduction: Where will we focus our attention?

- The challenges of ministry life: What makes it hard?
 - Demand and complexity
 - For leaders
 - For leaders' family members: like passengers—same ride, varying experiences

- The call: What do we need?
 - The challenges of ministry make supportive relationships *more necessary* while simultaneously making them *harder to access*.
 - The need to prioritize and pursue these relationships
 - “Triage” mentality balanced with an “oxygen mask” mentality

- The characteristics: What specifically are we seeking?
 - Relationships that cultivate intimacy
 - Require **space**—offer opportunities to share personally
 - Require **safety**—guard what is shared
 - Require **simplicity**—the role of supporter is not compromised by their other roles

 - Supporters who demonstrate maturity
 - **Sensitivity** to what would and would not be helpful
 - **Patience** when change is slow and **perseverance** when hardship lingers

- **Awareness** of their **limitations** and their **dependence upon the Lord** as a helper
 - Conversations that help cultivate wisdom in the family members
 - **Identify** the challenges and **voice** their impact
 - **Experience** and **envision** how God meets them
 - **Hear** relevant and reorienting truth from Scripture
 - **Assess** and **discern** how God is calling them to respond
- A realistic vision: How will this play out?
 - A diversity of **provision**:
 - from season to season
 - among supporters
 - A diversity of **need**:
 - from seasons to season
 - from family member to family member
- Closing comments: We are *all* in this together
 - What part can I play?