

# **SINGLE PARENTING**

## **WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

Dr. James Dobson calls single parenting “the toughest job in the universe.” Few understand the loneliness and emotional hurt many single parents carry or how exhausting the role can be.

### **PRIORITY ONE: Keep your child’s best in mind**

Every parent is called to lay aside his or her own interests for the children. That calling takes extra commitment when you’re going it alone. You may still be working through the painful circumstances that led to becoming a solo parent, or dealing with an ex-spouse who is a negative influence on the children. Regardless of the emotions your specific circumstances may be causing, you are called to place your child’s needs above your own. Give them as much stability and nurturing as you can. Providing stability includes doing your best to maintain a Christ-like attitude when you go through the headaches of court appointments, seeing your ex with a new romantic interest, juggling financial challenges, maintaining a home, or handling awkward questions about your family.

### **PRIORITY TWO: Choose good relationships**

Few people understand the load you carry. You’re likely to be under stress with extra work and the constant demands of parenting. You know how your loneliness and desire to be loved can lead you toward relationships with the opposite sex that may be harmful, only adding to the uncertainty and anxiety. If you are not ready to marry, be very cautious about dating during this season of life. You and your children need to be a part of a community of believers that will support you and help you navigate this season of your life.

### **PRIORITY THREE: Become intentional**

You are a better parent than you think you are! Raising children alone is harder, but the goal is the same for you as it is for two parent families - to nurture Christian faith and values in your children. You must be intentional about building a strong relationship with your child, modeling Godly character, and creating occasions for meaningful interaction about life’s most important truths. God is eager to help you be the parent your children need.

## **EASTVIEW RESOURCES**

- Single Mom mid week program – Jason at [jsniff@eastview.church](mailto:jsniff@eastview.church)
- Divorce Care Group – Jason at [jsniff@eastview.church](mailto:jsniff@eastview.church)

## **SUGGESTED RESOURCES**

- **Successful Single Parenting** by Gary Richmond;
- “Visionary Parenting – Encouragement for Single Parents” a video series on RightNowMedia