

# FAMILY AND MINISTRY

## Advantages and Adversities

There will always be plenty of both, but could these actually be opposite sides of the same coin?

**Find a balance between family and ministry that works for both family and ministry.**



### Advantages

### Adversities

#### Healthy service opportunities

There are many valuable lessons to be learned in a service-oriented ministry (including biblical servanthood and industriousness). There are also a variety of ways to experience that service - in both physical tasks and spiritual endeavors.



#### Unhealthy work load

Doing too much (parents and children) can be dangerous for the family dynamic. Living there, you are constantly available with high expectations to be able to meet any need. It is important to discern the appropriate level of moderation and establish a parental veto.

#### Safe Christian environment

It is great to live in a place that can be unencumbered by our culture and inundated with godly influence. By nature, there is a constant focus on things above with the potential for an abundance of Christlike models and mentors.



#### Dangerous potential for hypocrisy

Having such a consistent environment, expectations are also high to play the part. One temptation would be to put on a façade so that it is easy to blend in. Be intentional about the what, why, and how of everything.

#### Sincere desire for future ministry

Being exposed to ministry as a lifestyle is a great way to cultivate a heart for service in the future. The multiple ways that ministry can be accomplished also gives exposure to the many options that are available. As a result, the joy of a life well spent is both obvious and contagious.



#### Bitter resentment of ministry

A ministry life can also translate to extreme busyness. Much care needs to be exercised to protect the family from the ensuing dangers. In addition, your family will see the hypocrisy of others and undergo the rigors of hardship that often accompany the sacrifices of ministry. Any of these can have serious repercussions.

#### Fresh awareness of God's power

Being able to witness God at work up close can be life-changing. A family has the opportunity to see hearts transformed by the gospel, needs met in miraculous ways, and prayers answered continually—all displaying God's glory.



#### Tired complacency

However, observing such consistent results can lead some to be desensitized. They might not appreciate the constant grace (of all sorts) that is being received and might even begin to develop a haughty sense of expectation.

## Advantages

## Adversities

### **Constant parental involvement**

The life of full-time ministry affords parents a priceless commodity. They have the chance to almost always be around their children and the potential to be aware of almost everything occurring with their children. This then provides the precious opportunity to truly shape the heart and the mind.

### **Unique atmosphere for family**

It goes without saying that living at a camp is an amazing experience for a family. Your “backyard” is unlike many others, and the exploration and recreation options are unrivaled in their accessibility and exclusivity. Don’t be afraid to enjoy these to the fullest.

### **Vast network of contacts**

Camping is a unique ministry in that those whom you serve are constantly changing. This results in a broad group both in number and locale and has the real potential for long-term friendships and valuable resources for years—benefits that should not be dismissed.

### **Sporadic meaningful interactions**

With the breadth of interaction that you can have with your children, it is a very real danger that you can miss the important moments due to a repetitious shallow pattern that has developed. Also, don’t focus on the reputation of you or your ministry so much that selfish expectations demoralize your children.

### **Unfair scrutiny of children**

These supposed advantages can also lead to a certain level of jealousy and even a critical spirit from others. This is sometimes unavoidable due to the nature of the “spotlight” that is on your family. You can help, though, by not unnecessarily shining that light on your own kids.

### **Narrow scope of close friendships**

There can also be a sense of isolation in this type of ministry (especially smaller camps). We should never underestimate the value of good close friends and even support outside of the family. Consider also the need for healthy discipling relationships (on either side).