



# on a **MISSION**

Many in our church family face the challenge of being single parents. This was the challenge my mother faced after my parents divorced. As I consider what my mom did, and as I look at what my friends face, who are also single parents, it seems like an impossible job. In some senses, it is. It is not realistic or reasonable to expect one parent to perfectly prepare the food, organize the house, stay on top of the bills, earn an income, help with homework, plan the trips, get the car repaired, volunteer at church, do the laundry and the other hundred things on the list. Part of the challenge of single parenting is acknowledging that there are not enough hours in the day to do all the things that you want to do. Some things are going to have to take a back seat. But how do you decide?

As a single parent, you already know that your children are your top priority. You have likely built your life and schedule around being the best parent you can be. But it is easy to lose sight of what your children need the most. Your children don't need to be great athletes. Your children don't need to have a high IQ. Your children don't need great friends. Your children don't need to be up on the latest music and gadgets. So what do they need? What is the most important thing you can give them? What your children need more than anything else is to know God and love Him! God has created you and called you in this chapter of your life, to impress the hearts of your children with a love for God. Nothing else is more important. Would it be wonderful if there were a godly spouse at your side? Yes! But for now, God has given you this responsibility. Can your extended family, your friends and the church support you? Yes. But no one can reach the heart of your child like you can.

Focus your prayers on the hearts of your children. Pray for them to give their hearts to you (Prov. 23:26) and to Christ. Make whatever sacrifices necessary to spend time praying with your children each day. Read the Bible with them. Open your heart to them about how God is working in your life. Encourage them to open their hearts to you. Use the *WBC Family Worship Guide* for creative ideas on how you can make spiritual life at home both meaningful and fun.

Pray for God to give you the strength and discernment to know when to say "no" to in order to prioritize the hearts of your children and your relationship with them. My prayer is that your children will one day look back on this chapter of your lives together and say, "We faced a lot of challenges back then. It was impossible to stay on top of everything, but my dad/my mom put time with God first in our family schedule. I may not have known it at the time, but that was what I needed more than anything in the world." ■