



●The first message of this series we talked about the changing face of the American family. One area this change can be seen prominently is the growing numbers of single parent families. Dr. James Dobson says, “35% of all children now do not live with their biological father.” Lee Strobel says, “A majority of children today—60% of them—will live at least a part of their life in a single parent family before they turn 18.”

I. One of the Toughest Jobs on the Planet.

■Let’s be honest it is not the ideal.

II. Single Parents in the Bible.

■There are lots of single people and single parents in Scripture.

■Ministry to single parents in the Bible.

❖Elijah 📖1 Kings 17:10, 12-14

❖Elisha 📖2 Kings 4:1-7

◇Over 55% of single parent homes have annual incomes below the poverty line.

❖Jesus 📖Luke 7:12-16

◇Jesus took the initiative.

❖Jesus’ teaching: 📖Mark 12:38-40

◇God loves single parents and their children and looks to His church to be like Jesus toward them.

III. Help for Single Parents.

■Remember that you matter to God!

📖John 3:16; Psalm 146:9; 10:14

■Remember that you may be a lone parent, but you are not alone.

📖Hebrews 13:5

■Remember God’s care and goodness from the past.

◇A great way to build our faith for the future is to recite God’s goodness and care for us in the past. 📖Psalm 38:15

■Remember God’s reward.

📖Hebrews 6:10

“Desperate Households” next week: *“Help! I’m A Teenager!”*