

GOING FURTHER - Resources

In your visitation, in your support, and all other connections, your first priority is serving the needs of your children.

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 want healthy Christian friendships that can help you face this emotional maze and make wise decisions through it all. You need to be a part of a community of believers committed to forgiveness, redemption, and growth. Your children also need the support and modeling of other Christians. God can make your next chapter better than the last.

PRIORITY THREE: Become intentional

Be careful not to see yourself as a "second class" parent. 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. That means becoming intentional about building a strong relationship, modeling Godly character, and creating occasions for meaningful interaction about life's most important truths. Remember, it is no accident that God gave you the blessing of children. He also is eager to give you the grace to be the parent they need.

Recommended Books:

[Successful Single Parenting](#) (by Gary Richmond, a single-parent pastor) provides practical help and Biblical principles for balancing your needs with those of your children.

[Single Parents](#) (by Robert D. Jones, M.Div., D.Min)

If you are a single parent, you already know you have one of the hardest jobs in the world. Single parents often struggle with guilt, bad memories, anger, bitterness, resentment, loss, grief, and fear but God offers words of grace, power, and hope especially for you.

[Dating and the Single Parent](#) (by: Ron L. Deal)

When children are involved, dating gets complicated, therefore make the Best Dating Decisions Possible.

Recommended Websites:

[Family Life](#) [Crosswalk.com](#) and [Focusonthefamily.com](#),

These sites offer excellent information and articles for the single parent.

For answers to specific question also try

<http://family.custhelp.com>

Enter single parent in the search tab

Equipping U:

Also reference the *Intentional Parenting* pointer (at the Equipping U Kiosk or webpage) for specific guidelines for raising your child in the faith.

