

TROUBLESHOOTING

in your

MINISTRY



THE LIFE OF A SINGLE MOM™
Where No Single Mom Walks Alone

Troubleshooting in your Ministry

Satan's ploy is to steal, kill, and destroy. It is his vision, his mission, his very existence on this earth, to steal your joy, kill your relationships, and destroy fellowship among Christians, so we have to understand that as ministry leaders there will be things that arise in ministry. Why? Because if you are truly impacting lives for the Kingdom of Christ, particularly mothers, who are raising up children, the enemy is scared. He is going to attempt to disrupt your ministry in a variety of ways. There is so much to be said on this topic, so much.

I'll start with this:

1. **You have to be mature as a leader.** You can't be easily offended. You have to guard your heart. There will be times when the moms will be critical of you. The volunteers may criticize. The church leaders or members may not say the right thing to you. Get over it. Please. I say that in love. Get over it. This work is too important. We wrestle not against flesh and blood. If something offends you or someone hurts you, give grace & move on. Don't dwell. There is danger in the dwelling! The more you stay there, the bigger the issue becomes. So just resolve in your mind that no matter what happens, God has called you to this minister and he guides, who he calls.
2. **Lay down the competitive spirit.** Competition kills ministry. You aren't competing with any other ministry in your church. You aren't competing with other women. You aren't competing with other single mom's ministry in your area or your state. There is no competition in ministry. We all have a role and a part. You aren't competing with anyone within your group for the best speaking ability or singing voice or leadership skills. You are you. Walk in your role. SO much drama in ministry has to do with the fact that we don't know our role. We aren't confident in who God has created us to be. We should celebrate the successes of other women, ministries, single moms. Celebrate their gifts. Celebrate their victories. Don't compete.
3. **Don't ignore conflict.** Handle it. Let's say the conflict is with you and another member of the ministry, whether a single mom or a volunteer. You can't just ignore the situation. The Bible says to take your problem to your brother first. Unfortunately, what we sometimes have a tendency to do is either ignore it, because it's uncomfortable and we don't like conflict. Or we tend to talk to other people about it, so that we can somehow be right. Relinquish your desire to be right. The goal is healthy relationships and restoration of the relationship, not your ability to be right. So....that means sometimes you apologize, when it wasn't your fault. The conflict will get bigger when it isn't handled. This is critical in ministry.
4. **Understand that "problem" single moms are hurt.** They are broken. Maybe they are past abuse victims. Maybe they've been so disappointed by so many that they do things like lie or gossip or manipulate or need to control or offend or maybe talk too much. Whatever the problem is, understand there is a root to the problem. Relationship help these women heal. God loves you

so much and trusts you so much that he has now positioned you to shepherd another group of women. This is big. And the more you foster relationships and create a safe space for these women, the less likely you are to battle the “problem” single moms. Listen, we all have problems. Issue tons of grace, when they don’t say the right thing in group or behave the right way. Love them. They need you to love them. You are Christ’s ambassador.

5. **Don’t judge these moms.** The last thing that these mothers need is a finger-pointing leader who is constantly dissecting why they are sinning. Now, this comes in lots of forms. Here’s what often happens. We, as leaders, are so excited that God has done the miraculous in our lives. We love Him so much and we just want the world to know about His goodness. Those are all great things. But if we aren’t very careful, we translate that excitement into, “Well let me tell you the 5 things you need to do to fix your life.” And then, when the mom doesn’t do those things, or we go around the same mount with her over and over again, we just tend to finger point or become disappointed and frustrated. Okay, so I’ve been doing single mom’s ministry for a decade. I have seen God do the supernatural. I have seen him set women free of addiction in a moment. I have seen women’s lives transformed in a moment. I have seen the miraculous. I know hundreds of women personally that God has redeemed. But....I also have some of the same women in my local ministry that were there 10 years ago, talking about the same things, making the same mistakes. Thank God that He didn’t give up on us, when we failed.

6. **Always honor your spiritual authority!** No matter what. ALWAYS honor your spiritual authority. (the only exception is illegal or immoral behavior). Maybe you have a pastor or a women’s ministry leader or missions pastor that has been unbearable in your opinion. Maybe they’ve been unfair. Maybe they’ve not been as supportive as you would’ve hope. You honor them. Pray for them. Do not talk about them with ANYONE. The more you talk about them, the more bitter seeds you plant. God is in control. God will speak to them or remove them.

7. **Give challenged women a task to complete.** Listen, I’m not naïve to think that you aren’t going to have some problem women in your group from time to time. I understand. Now, their job isn’t going to mentoring other women! But maybe the job is, hey, I really need some help with organizing the food each week. Would you be willing to help get volunteers to cook the meal? Whatever that looks like for your ministry. Maybe it’s sending emails or inputting data or follow-up welcome calls or set-up or clean-up or greeters & welcome team. Whatever you need, give them the task. Whatever the root issue is that may make her defensive or a busy-body or whatever could likely be addressed over time, as she finds value in her service to others.

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This resource was provided to you by The Life of a Single Mom, a national non-profit organization headquartered in Baton Rouge, LA. We provide solutions for local churches & communities to launch & grow single mom support groups. Our programs help single moms succeed in finances, parenting, and health & wellness, while connecting them to a group in their community for encouragement, networking, and empowerment. We serve more than 50,000 single mothers annually and have assisted with 1,514 single mom support groups. We are a hub for all things single parent and single parent ministry related. We are a multi-award winning, fully-accredited 501c3 nonprofit. For more information and additional resources visit our website at www.thelifeofasinglemom.com or email us at info@thelifeofasinglemom.com.