

NATIONAL FAMILY SEASON INITIATIVE

MINISTRY GUIDE 2017



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Increasingly, there is convergence of research from more and more sectors that point to the absolute need for healthy families for the survival of the people of God and for the well-being of human society. This research points out that divorce rates are increasing in our region. An additional concern for today's families is the rise of digital addiction that not only tears families apart but has allowed all sorts of pornography to enter the sanctity of the home which distorts healthy views of sexuality, corrupts what the family stands for, and thus strikes right at the central nerve of God's normative design for family relationships. Sadly, the leadership of our churches and society have been reluctant to get involved in the messy situations so many families are facing. The church must rise up, and with hearts and hands, help shape and lay the groundwork for many generations of healthy families in order to accomplish world transformation.

If revival is to happen in Malaysia, it must start with the revival of the home. We desire homes and families with increased capacity to be salt and light in church and society. If we are going to reap the harvest we long for, we must start with a focus on the families of today. If we are to see the people of God remain long in the land, we must practice generational discipleship.

The National Family Season Initiative is meant to help churches have a framework that we, together, as the Christian church in Malaysia, can use to help contribute toward the strengthening and empowerment of families in Malaysia. As we synergize our efforts, may we see families restored, may the families of the church be salt and light in their respective communities, and may we see homes increasingly marked by the redemptive grace of God.

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Dated: 4th April, 2017



ABOUT NATIONAL FAMILY SEASON INITIATIVE

The National Family Season (NFS) initiative is a part of the strategic plan of Family Ministries Malaysia and NECF Family Commission to create awareness in the Malaysian Church on the importance of building healthy families.

1. **The Goal**

Our overall long-term goal for the annual NFS is to see that it becomes an integral part of the yearly ministry calendar of the Malaysian Church.

2. **Annual Key Focus**

Each week during the NFS shall be devoted to one key area of Malaysian family life.

As marriage is the foundation of every family, we will make this the one-week focus in 2017.

FAMILY SEASON PROGRAMMES

1. **NFS Programmes**

We are suggesting the following nationwide programmes for 2017. More details of each are given in Section C below.

- **Celebrating the Mother's Day and Father's Day** with a focus on biblical motherhood and fatherhood. This could include carrying out related activities in conjunction with these celebrations.
- **Family Blessings Week.** We are using the United Nations' International Day of Families on 15 May to start the week, focusing on cultivating the culture of setting regular times aside in the home to bless each other through prayers and other means.



- **Sexual Purity Week.** The focus is on seeking to please God in our sexual identity and life whether single or married, pastor or layperson, male or female, young or old.
- **Faith Legacy Week.** This is a week of commitment to passing faith on from one generation to another that the people of God may live long on the earth.
- **Marriage Week.** With an emphasis on couples making time for each other to build a close lifelong marriage relationship.
- **Local Church Programme.** We are encouraging individual churches, if they are able to do so, to organise other activities that could further contribute to the building of healthy families in their midst.

2. Church and Home Involvements
a. Location

| PROGRAMME | CHURCH-BASED | HOME-BASED |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day | These are primarily held at the church premise. | To encourage the children to make the parent "king" or "queen" for the day. To consider other ways children of any age can honor their parents. |
| 2. Marriage Week | The programmes may be carried out at church as well as in the home environment or other environments chosen by the couples for their 'Marriage TimeTM.' | |



| PROGRAMME | CHURCH-BASED | HOME-BASED |
|--|---|------------|
| 3. Family Blessings, Sexual Purity, and Faith Legacy Weeks | The church could equip the families to carry out activities related to these topics in their own homes. | |

b. Weekly Programme

| DATE(S) | PROGRAMMES |
|----------|---|
| 8-13/5 | Daily prayers for mothers |
| 14/5 | Mother’s Day |
| 15-20/5 | Daily prayers for specific topics within the area of family blessings |
| 21/5 | Family Blessings Sunday |
| 22-27/5 | Daily prayers for sexual purity |
| 28/5 | Sexual Purity Sunday |
| 29/5-3/6 | Daily prayers for passing faith on to the next generation |
| 4/6 | Faith Legacy Sunday |
| 5-10/6 | Marriage Week. Daily prayers for marriage. |
| 11/6 | Marriage Sunday |



| DATE(S) | PROGRAMMES |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 12-17/6 | Daily prayers for fathers |
| 18/6 | Father's Day |

Weekdays

Daily prayers. We suggest making the weekly prayer list available to church members to use during their prayers.

Video viewing

We are providing information on relevant videos you could suggest that families view online. The parents and grandparents could draw thoughts from these videos in order to help them discuss the weekly subject focus with their families.

Sundays

It would be great if pastors can preach on the topic of the week. If this is not possible, at least spend 5 to 10 minutes within the Sunday service emphasizing a few key points relating to the topic.



PROGRAMME GUIDE

This Guide outlines ideas and relevant resources that we can use.

MOTHER'S DAY

Focus: Mothers –
an image of God's nurturing heart.



Dates, Programmes, and resources:

| DATE(S) | PROGRAMMES & SUPPORTING RESOURCES |
|---------|---|
| 8-13/5 | <p>Daily Prayers</p> <p>Pray that each mother or grandmother...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * ...will recognise, receive and live out her calling (Ps 139:13-16). * ...will be clothed with strength and dignity (Pro 31:25). * ...will bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). * ...will lead in wisdom and discernment (Pro 31:26). * ...will experience and live out God's abundant plan (Jn 10:10). * ...will parent for the future (Pro 22:6) * ...will leave a lasting spiritual legacy (Pro 17:6, 2 Tim1:5). * That "older" mothers mentor "younger" mothers (Titus 2:3-5). * That as (grand)mothers lead, teach, counsel, equip, and encourage others, they will not neglect their own spiritual health (Matt 22:39; Pro 19:8 NASB). |



Motherhood Videos

- Website references to appropriate video clips:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeZBmEDDpXo>
<https://youtu.be/fkCOZbapg0w>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uVx4i1MQk4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ8iYk1xyZw>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpoVwhSVI38>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa-7jtv7J4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHvjTLOtqOU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mk2qDUBsKXg>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRoqk_z2Lgg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bP0Uf3Shd0
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CjxaLixqDs>

Mother's Day.

Ideas:

- Preach a sermon on motherhood, i.e. Proverbs 31:10–31, selections from Proverbs on “mothering,” mothers of faith in the Bible or from life testimonies, practical ways to be a godly mother, etc. Preaching should emphasize how to be a godly mother and not mere theory/head knowledge.
- Have children sit with parents. During service, get husband and children to surround their wife/mother to express/speak out their gratitude, ask for forgiveness, and bless and pray for their wife/mother.
- Give a small gift (i.e. a rose) during service.
- Family members are encouraged to intentionally spend more time with their mothers for the whole week.
- Pastor can pray for mothers.
- A lunch for families to celebrate at the church premise.

14/5

FAMILY BLESSINGS

Focus: To set aside moments during the week to bless one another in the home. Commit to continuing this practice beyond this one week.

Preparation: Learn the “5 Elements of Blessings” from <http://dosdsha48j4ct.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/The-5-Elements-of-the-Blessing.pdf>.

Dates, Programmes, and resources:

| DATE(S) | PROGRAMMES & SUPPORTING RESOURCES |
|---------|--|
| 15-20/5 | <p>Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn the “5 Elements of Blessings” from http://dosdsha48j4ct.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/The-5-Elements-of-the-Blessing.pdf and list specific ways the family can bless each other. <p>Daily Prayers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents and grandparents praying for God’s blessings for the home in the following areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical and spiritual protections. Provision of material things and non-material things to meet various needs. Unity among family members. Salvation of pre-believers in the family. Married couples praying for blessings for each other. Family members can pray for other needs as appropriate. |



| | |
|------|---|
| | <p>Family Blessings Videos</p> <p>Website references to appropriate video clips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_23-eD4qzPA • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXUZIB_Uy3I • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYgUXsr_QSo • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZytE6phk95c |
| 21/5 | <p>Family Blessings Sunday.</p> <p>These are some ideas on celebrating this Sunday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sermon on family blessings. • Declare this a Family Sunday with the children sitting with the parents with following activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Setting aside time to pray for the families of the church.</i> • <i>To set a time during the service for parents to pray for blessings for their children and for children to pray for blessings for the parents.</i> • Challenge the families to continue to establish the culture of family blessings at home in the coming weeks. |



SEXUAL PURITY

Focus: Seeking to please God in our sexual identity and life whether single or married, pastor or layperson, male or female, young or old.

Dates, Programmes, and resources:



| DATE(S) | PROGRAMMES & SUPPORTING RESOURCES |
|---------|---|
| 22-27/5 | <p>Daily Prayers</p> <p>Whether you are single or married, male or female...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To seek to be holy as God is holy (1 Pet. 1:15)• To serve God with chaste bodies and pure minds (Ps. 24:4; 1 Cor. 6:13, 19-20; 1 Thess. 4:3-6)• To protect our eyes from sights that threaten Christ-like purity and to let our hearts be sealed forever against the suggestions of sinful pleasures (Prov. 4:23; Luke 11:34)• To defend the gift of chastity and purity in our soul as well as body (Matt. 6:13; 1 John 2:15-17)• To flee all forms of sexual immorality by fleeing to God (2 Tim. 2:22)• To pursue relationships with God and others in community for healing, restoration, and accountability (Prov. 27:17; Eccl. 4:9-10; Eph 4:7-13; 1 Thess. 4:6) |



| | |
|------|--|
| | <p>Sexual Purity Videos</p> <p>Website references to appropriate video clips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1jlkLcmwqM • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMEdy_rtp7o • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3Kt7hr18gs • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PrEI_gstAg • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoJOJWT6nkU • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tzw16_wY2RM • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4e-0jH-V6U |
| 28/5 | <p>Sexual Purity Sunday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are not preaching on this topic on this Sunday, you may want to affirm the commitment to sexual purity, and ask reflective questions. • A Reflection: In what way is the pursuit of holiness really the essence of sexual purity? (1 Thess. 4:3-8) |



FAITH LEGACY

Focus: Passing on the faith from one generation to another so that the people of God may live long on the earth.

Dates, Programmes, and resources:

| DATE(S) | PROGRAMMES & SUPPORTING RESOURCES |
|----------|---|
| 29/5-3/6 | <p>Daily Prayers</p> <p>It is not just the parents or grandparents, everyone is called to be faith shapers. Therefore, pray that....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents & Grandparents will develop in the heart of the young a love for the Word of God and disciple them in the faith (Deut. 4:9-10; Prov. 1:8; Ps. 119:9-16) • Personal and Family Worship will be a normal part of family life (Joshua 24:14-15) • Parents & Grandparents will regularly pray together with the young (Deut. 4:25-31; Rom. 12:12) • Families will bear fruit for Christ in life and ministry (John 15:5-8; Gal. 5:22-23) • Adults (single or married) in the church will leave a legacy of faithfulness to Christ for each generation (Prov. 2:8; 1 Cor. 11:1; Titus 2:1-8; Rev. 14:12) • A Godly legacy will be preserved in the descendants of pastors and leaders (Deut. 11:18-21; Ps 78:5-6) |



Faith Legacy Videos

Website references to appropriate video clips:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEie39UwjAc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7O5EGPK6J4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KO6013UicAA>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eFutDa2Amk
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgjmqrluy4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25bbe8OiYYY>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsyW4pbt97w>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4zWygoPkQ8>

4/6

Faith Legacy Sunday.

- If you are not preaching on this topic, you may want to consider playing one or more of the videos and ask the following reflective question:

In what way does your family display a commitment to leaving a legacy of faith as described in Deut. 6:7-9?



MARRIAGE WEEK

Focus: Making time for each other to build a close lifelong marriage relationship.

Dates, Programmes, and resources

| DATE(S) | PROGRAMMES & SUPPORTING RESOURCES |
|---------|---|
| 5-10/6 | <p>Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily, couples should ask each other how they can pray for each other that day and spend a few minutes praying together. Couples should begin cultivating weekly Marriage Time (video link below). <p>Daily Prayers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for love to deepen- "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other..." (1Thess. 3:12) Pray to be patient and kind- "Love is patient and kind." (1 Cor 13:4) Pray for joy in your marriage- "May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth." (Prov. 5:18) Pray to be respectful- "Let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." (Eph. 5:33) Pray to be gentle- "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph. 4:1-3) |



| DATE(S) | PROGRAMMES & SUPPORTING RESOURCES |
|---------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray to be encouraging- "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Ephesians 4:29) <p>Marriage Videos</p> <p>Website references to appropriate video clips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage Time- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fIn-1LUAi8&feature=youtu.be • Friendship in Marriage- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXo0NVBeXGo&feature=youtu.be • Resolving Conflict- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGdZB1UzAIY • Forgiveness- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTOXFEG2G1Q • The Marriage Course- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qC9vxw66ul8 • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4zWygoPkQ |
| 11/6 | <p>Marriage Sunday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preach on the value and beauty of marriage and introduce the concept of Marriage Time. (Video link above) • Invite all married couples to stand and, as a church, pray for each marriage to be blessed and grow in love and intimacy. |



FATHER'S DAY

Focus: Patriarchs to lead their multigenerational clan to serve the Lord. Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged; parents are the pride of their children. (Proverbs 17:6NLT)



Dates, Programmes, and resources:

| DATE(S) | PROGRAMMES & SUPPORTING RESOURCES |
|---------|--|
| 12-17/6 | <p>Daily Prayers</p> <p>Pray for each father or grandfather that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fathers will be their children's "first teacher" (Prov 22:6; Deut 6:6-9) God will give fathers grace to raise their children in faith and not to provoke them into anger (Eph 6:4) Fathers will become patriarchs over a clan that loves and serves the Lord in this nation and beyond.(Prov 17:6) God will bestow grace on fathers whose marriages are in crisis and single fathers as they continue to raise their children. (Heb 13:5) Fathers will bring pride to their children by the way they live. (Prov 17:6b) Fathers will never give up on their children (Luke 15:20-24) |



| DATE(S) | PROGRAMMES & SUPPORTING RESOURCES |
|---------|---|
| | <p>Fatherhood Videos</p> <p>Website references to appropriate video clips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=af1IPFs_m1U • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLssh2OCD_Q • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AJwfloWtqM • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DUYIHZsZfc • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWqZlpjmLrE • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebFnQEVAhAU • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmWRODY0ing • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVqAspQUuOs • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmooF1_3HAQ |
| 18/6 | <p>Father's Day</p> <p>Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preach a sermon on fatherhood. Malachi 4:5-6; Luke 1:11-17. • Give a small gift during service. • Pastor can pray for fathers. • All fathers are encouraged to intentionally spend more time with their families for the whole week. • A church may have a lunch meal for families to celebrate at the church premise. • Other ideas. You may like to visit the following websites for more ideas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.theworldneedsafather.com/ • https://dadsfirst.org/home/ • http://honoryourfathertoday.com/ • http://www.fatherhoodcomission.com/ |

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