

LOGOS USER GUIDE

Family Time

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Version 1

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INTRODUCTION

GENON MINISTRIES: WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

Mission Statement: GenOn Ministries equips faith communities and families to develop Christian disciples of all ages through intergenerational ministry.

Our Vision

Vision Statement: Children, youth, adults and families are nurtured toward lifelong faith and Christian discipleship, and communities of faith are energized and strengthened for renewed growth.

OUR CORE VALUES

AFFIRMING We affirm that an abundant life-giving relationship with God through Jesus Christ is more important than anything else in life.

LIVING We seek to live with God as the center and focus of everything we do, following the Bible as our guide and standard.

NURTURING We develop and deepen Christian relationships which nurture people into lifelong faith and discipleship.

PARTNERING We recognize that partnering with the Body of Christ, the church, is essential for excellence in Christian nurture, and that God has called the church of Jesus Christ into being as the primary means of ministry in the world - including ministry with youth and children.

PRACTICING Through our ministry and training, we advocate the study and practice of four vital elements of ministry which originate from Acts 2:42 – teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and worship, and that this model of ministry, LOGOS, is of God, called in a significant way to reach out and minister to young people in and through churches of many denominations.

SERVING We strive to be accountable as stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us: time, talent, and treasure, including gifts for ministry given by God to individuals and congregations, and that dollars given to GenOn Ministries will go further, over a longer period of time, make more difference in the lives of more young people, and generate more lifelong commitments to Jesus Christ, his church and its mission.

EQUIPPING We equip adults to do ministry by providing training, resource materials and on-going relational support because it is responsible stewardship to equip thousands of churches, with their tens of thousands of members and leaders, to nurture youth and children into faithful relationship with Jesus Christ by utilizing personnel and materials already in place within congregations.

THE BEGINNING

GenOn Ministries was originally known as the Youth Club Program and was initiated in 1957. Dr. Dale K. Milligan convened and challenged a group of clergy who were conducting their own weekday Youth Club Programs to pool their efforts and help one another provide Bible Study materials designed especially for their Programs.

This group of clergy, augmented by the inclusion of Lamar Otis, a devoted Christian businessman and member of the Beulah Presbyterian Church as financial advisor and treasurer, became the charter members of what is now GenOn Ministries. They were: the Rev. Frank Bates, Dr. G. Mason Cochran, the Rev. Lloyd Dalbey, the Rev. Harry Orr Leitman, the Rev. Bruce Milligan, the Rev. Dr. Dale K. Milligan, Mr. Lamar J. Otis and the Rev. Aaron Powers.

Like pebbles dropped in a pool of water, each Youth Club Program sent out ripples of influence reaching out to more and more clergy and churches. These programs in the churches served by these leaders became so successful that increasing numbers of other clergy and congregations asked for help to start similar programs. Training seminars were begun at the Beulah Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, and were subsequently replicated around the country under the leadership of Dr. Milligan, assisted by members of the Beulah Presbyterian Church, and Southminster Presbyterian Church in Mt. Lebanon, PA.

In 1963, Youth Club Program incorporated in Pittsburgh, PA. In the mid-80's, the name "LOGOS" was chosen to reflect the biblical basis and focus of the System and Program and the name was changed to LOGOS System Associates. In 2005, LOGOS System Associates changed its name to The LOGOS Ministry, reflecting the church wide system of ministry that transforms individual lives and entire congregations.

The LOGOS Ministry became GenOn Ministries in 2012, continuing a firm belief that an abundant life-giving relationship with God through Jesus Christ is more important than anything else in life, and that nurturing people, especially youth and children, into this relationship of faith with God through Jesus Christ is the most important thing the church ever does. GenOn Ministries' *mission* – and we believe calling as well -- *is to equip faith communities and families to develop lifelong Christian disciples of all ages through intergenerational ministry.*

GenOn Ministries continues to equip churches to build and nurture abundant life-giving relationships of faith with God through the disciplined approach called LOGOS. LOGOS is GenOn's signature offering for a weekly intergenerational experience for children and/or youth that creates an intentional arena where children, youth and adults, together, can learn about, experience and practice the art of Christian relationships. In these cross-generational gatherings, young people and adults eat together, play together, study together, and pray together.

When effectively practiced, our intergenerational ministry has shown to be highly effective in:

- passing on the faith to younger generations,
- in nurturing children and youth on their faith journey, and
- energizing the whole church through the building of relationships

In addition to building relationships in LOGOS, GenOn Ministries continues to design and promote lifelong disciple-building experiences through annual GenOn Youth Summits (youth conferences).

By partnering with more and more churches, GenOn Ministries expects to see children, youth, and adults nurtured toward lifelong Christian faith and discipleship, and communities of faith energized and strengthened for renewed growth.

GenOn Ministries invites faith communities of all sizes to explore how adopting these practices can help them be more effective in fulfilling the mission of the church in their community.

As a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, GenOn Ministries is incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania as a charitable organization for whom contributions are fully tax deductible.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Our keystone ministry, LOGOS, is a 4-part experience with children and youth where everyone participates in Bible study, Recreation, Family Time and Worship Skills. LOGOS is built on three **KEY PRACTICES**:



Theology of Relationships A strong scripturally-based understanding of who God is in our lives, the nature of our personal relationship with God, and the resulting impact on our relationships with others because of God's presence in our lives.



Process of Call A scripturally-directed approach for aligning personal gifts and efforts with the needs of a ministry or mission that results from God's purpose and plan.



Balanced Ministry A requirement that ministry addresses and engages the mind, soul and body in a disciple-making process that teaches and provides an opportunity to practice the faith.

LOGOS creates an arena where people of all ages are transformed, regardless of a church's size, culture, ethnic mix or lack of it, economic context, or demographic definition. Through training, resources and support, LOGOS helps churches strengthen their ministry effectiveness with youth and children and bring young people into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

FAMILY TIME

TO LEARN MORE, find these resources in the GenOn online store:

Quick Reference: Family Time
Workshop: Dinner and Duct Tape
Leader Training Module: How to Do Family Time
Recommended Resources for Family Time

The GOAL of Family Time is to experience being a part of God's family over a shared meal.

THEOLOGY IN ACTION

Jesus knew the value of mealtime. "When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him." Luke 24:30-31a (NRSV)

In the NRSV translation of the Bible there are over 860 verses that mention a meal or eating. These stories are not just about eating, but about relationships, about righteousness, grace, justice, sharing, celebration, and providing nurture for one another. Bonding happens when people share food together.

Our spirits become one as we share a meal and care about one another. Every time we come to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper we are reminded that we are bound to Jesus through the breaking of bread. Meal time in LOGOS becomes almost a "sacramental" experience—a spiritual act.

If we want our young people to have great memories of their church, and if we are preparing food for the children of God, we will present the best possible meals in the best possible environment. There is an old saying, "When you take in food in the presence of another person, you take in something of that person as well."

During Family Time we work on relationships and the building of table families who care about and minister to one another. This caring is reflected in the hospitality and compassion we extend to each person. It is reflected in the celebrations as well as the sorrows and heart aches that we share. We are also reminded that Jesus chose mealtimes to talk about his disciples as servants. We model this as our young people serve each other.

Most of us do not like to eat alone. It is a fact that many older adults who are living alone stop eating. Unfortunately, in today's world, eating at home with the whole family around the table is happening less and less frequently. More and more members of the family are eating "on the run" outside the home. Fast food restaurants, frozen foods, microwave ovens and hectic, varied family schedules have contributed to less time in food preparation and eating together. The rituals of

food preparation and eating together provide time for talking and sharing which leads to bonding and belonging.

If young people are growing up in a world where eating with their family resembles a relay race where everyone is on their own rather than sharing together as a special event, where will they turn for a sense of belonging? The church can and should be that place! In the church, gathered around the table to enjoy God's gift of food, young people and the adults with whom they share a meal, experience hospitality, bonding, compassion, celebration, and renewal of spirit.



In planning for Family Time, keep in mind the three **KEY PRACTICES**: Christian Relationships, the Process of Call and Balanced Ministry.

These three practices are unique to LOGOS and, when emphasized, increase the possibility of congregation wide transformation. Now that your leadership has been called using the Process of Call, build on experiences that foster Christian Relationships and a Balanced Ministry during Family Time.

There are two areas of ministry that happen during Family Time, the Dining Room and the Kitchen, both ministering to young people and adults. While each area has a different general focus, coordination is needed to provide for a quality Family Time. It is important to:

Include information about the importance of each aspect of Family Time when interpreting LOGOS to groups in the church, the LOGOS staff, at "The Parent Connection", and other gatherings.

LEADERSHIP IN FAMILY TIME

The primary called positions for tasks in the dining room are those of the Family Time Coordinator, Dinner Dean, Table Parents, and Kitchen Coordinator. These positions are connected and they directly influence the experience of the young people. The way the necessary tasks are divided between the called positions can vary depending on the size of the church.

The three primary criteria for any called position in LOGOS are:

1. Love God.
2. Love youth and children.
3. Have a gift to share.

Coordinator

The Family Time Coordinator is a called position. This person serves on Leadership Team and is an advocate with the Leadership Team for Family Time. This person provides training for all those involved in Family Time, helping each person to understand their responsibilities and how their tasks relate to other tasks being performed during Family Time. It is essential for everyone to realize that they are performing a service of ministry that is important and that others are depending on them. Encouragement and affirmation of each person may be done through phone calls, notes, and acknowledgment with a few words the night of LOGOS.

The Family Time Coordinator will use the Call process to involve leaders in Family Time who will oversee and coordinate the cooking, shopping, set-up, clean-up, and table decorations.

Additionally, the Family Time Coordinator will:

1. Call meetings when necessary to coordinate efforts
2. Oversee budgeting of monies for food, decorations and other supplies needed for the dinner hour
3. Provide list of substitutes when requested
4. Encourage and affirms volunteers
5. Participate in regular Faculty/Staff Meetings
6. Pray regularly for the Family Time staff
7. Work with the Kitchen Coordinator and Dinner Dean to plan themes, menus and decorations

Dinner Dean

Bonding happens when everyone at the table is talking, planning, and working together. Careful planning by the Dinner Dean can do much to aid the building of relationships and the bonding of family groups. This planning includes thinking through and preparing for each element that contributes to this time together (grace, birthdays, thanking the Kitchen Crew, Family Time Fun, meeting with the Table Parents before the meal) as well as the training of Table Parents. A dining room that reflects the theology behind Family Time does not happen automatically.

Characteristics of a good Dinner Dean are:

1. Good sense of humor and is fun to be with
2. Flexibility, ability to be innovative
3. Ability to respond quickly and creatively to unexpected situations.
4. Good manager of time
5. Organized
6. Able to keep track of several things at once
7. Even tempered, patient and maintains self-control
8. Is comfortable holding everyone accountable for remembering and practicing the only rule of LOGOS
9. Willingness to be vulnerable and acknowledge mistakes and failures

The Dinner Dean is a called position. The Dinner Dean's main responsibility is being the head (or emcee) of the dining room and, in that capacity, coordinates the evening's schedule with the kitchen and Table Parents, supervises everyone in the dining room, and leads the blessing, announcements, thank you to the cooks and Family Time Fun.

Prior to the start of a new year, the Dinner Dean participates in the calling of Table Parents and, at various times during the year, provides training for Table Parents. Additionally, during the year, the Diner Dean prays regularly for Family Time staff and individual young people.

Weekly, the Dinner Dean checks in with the Kitchen Crew to finalize plans for food being served, special serving/clean up instructions, and the timing of the meal, and pray with the Kitchen Crew. After the Dinner Dean has met with the Kitchen Crew, and before young people arrive for Family Time, the Dinner Dean meets with the Table Parents to share the following:

1. Theme for Family Time
2. Announcements
3. Plans for the blessings, Kitchen Crew thanks, and Family Time Fun Topics and/or questions for Table Talk
4. Birthday celebration information
5. Guest recognition

The value of these meetings should not be underestimated. Table Parents need to be nurtured, trained, and supported in their task, and this is a wonderful

opportunity to do all of this, as well as to help the group bond as a team.

Dinner Deans will look for opportunities to build relationships and give praise and encouragement, visit with youth and children during dinner, making them feel welcome, comfortable and valued. They will set the tone and climate in the dining room. As the Dinner Dean walks around the tables during dinner and speaks to individuals, everyone feels welcome. Good behavior is acknowledged. Discipline is exercised with love and firmness.

In order to be fully present at Family Time, the Dinner Dean will eat dinner before or after Family Time. Since the job of the Dinner Dean is one of hospitality, if the group is large the time needed to extend this hospitality may prohibit the Dinner Dean from sitting down to dinner. When this is the norm, the Kitchen Crew should be alerted to routinely save a meal for the Dinner Dean to eat after the young people have left the dining room.

The Dinner Dean will use a signal for giving attention. This might be the raising of a hand, the flicker of lights, or the playing of some music. Whenever the signal is given, the Table Parents see that their table of young people stop talking and pay attention. The signal is used as few times as possible during the meal so that conversations are not interrupted. Use it when it is time to pray, sing, clean up, thank the cooks, celebrate birthdays, give instructions for playing the game, and have the closing. When using the raising of a hand to get attention, it is important to remember that the Dinner Dean should *not* talk when his/her hand is up. Then, the Dinner Dean should practice patience in waiting until *all* talking has stopped before proceeding.

Hints for the Dinner Dean

1. Write down the Family Time schedule. This is especially helpful when a Dinner Dean is new and is not yet sure of the flow and timing. Notes might be kept on 3 X 5 cards, or on a sheet of paper kept on a clip board.
2. Make appropriate adjustments to the schedule due to numbers, size of dining room, and ease of clean-up.
3. With larger groups, use a microphone, which enables you to keep your voice at a lower level in both pitch and volume, which keeps the atmosphere calmer.
4. Do not speak until everyone else has stopped. Raise your hand for attention and wait until it is totally quiet before beginning to speak. If not, the young people will get the message that you don't really mean for everyone to be quiet.
5. If people begin to speak after you have started, stop. Raise your hand again and wait until it is quiet. Then go on with what you were saying.
6. If you have written a blessing for everyone to say, or words to a song to be sung as a "thank you" to the cooks, it is helpful to make copies to put on the tables so everyone is successful in participating by reading or singing along.
7. Take into account the interests and abilities of the young people in the dining room when planning games so that all can succeed. If youth are in the dining

room with younger children, find ways for youth to have fun doing the same game as first graders.

8. Hold up high standards. Consult the LOGOS Director if there is a problem you cannot solve with a Table Parent or with any of the young people.

Table Parents

Table Parents are called to this position. The Leadership Team should consider mature college students, older adults, grandparents, singles, widows/widowers, couples without children, and parents. Characteristics of good Tables Parents are:

1. Good sense of humor
2. Ability to be firm, kind, fair and caring
3. Ability to take charge and exercise control for the freedom of all.
4. Ability to discipline firmly but with love
5. Call themselves and all others to accountability for practicing the only rule of LOGOS

Table Parents encourage the development of Christian friendships among the members of the table family. This can be done by showing genuine interest in each young person at their table, making the effort to see the young people at times other than at church [attending a young person's concert, play, game or other special event], seeking out members of the table family at church events, like worship, suppers, picnics and other special gatherings, and sending notes or cards when the young person is absent, ill and to acknowledge birthdays.

Table Parents arrive at least 15 minutes before the meal to meet with the other Table Parents and the Dinner Dean. In this meeting, they will learn about the different activities that will happen in Family Time, which will help them to maintain order at the table, keep their "family" on track with the evening's activities, and allow them to focus on building relationships at the table. Table Parents will support and follow the Dinner Dean, and help their young people to follow the Dinner Dean's instructions.

Some churches ask Table Parents to keep attendance records. Whether a record of attendance is kept or not, Table Parents should call or send a note when young people in their "family" are absent.

Table Parents supervise the serving and clean-up at the tables, and take their turn server and play in the Family Time Fun along with everyone else at the table.

By modeling Christian parenthood in Family Time, Table Parents facilitate harmony at the table, exercise discipline in a fair but firm way, and teach young people to use good manners and to treat one another with respect and courtesy. Equally important, they pray regularly for each person by name.

Table Parents participate in regular Faculty/Staff meetings.

Kitchen Coordinator

This person oversees the general operation of the kitchen, the menus, purchasing or ordering of food and the weekly preparation of the dinner. The Kitchen Coordinator schedules and oversees the Cook Teams, supervises the person purchasing food, the Clean-up Teams and Set-up Teams.

The gifts to look for would include:

1. Organizational skills
2. The ability to oversee and supervise others in a supportive and loving way
3. Good stewardship of money and food

The Kitchen Coordinator oversees the operation of the kitchen (purchasing food, organizing cook teams, keeping financial records, tending to appliances and other needs in the kitchen), creates the menus with the Family Time Coordinator and others works with the Family Time Coordinator to carry out themes, and makes arrangements for special occasions and adjustments in the schedule for meals, as needed. Also, the Kitchen Coordinator attends faculty/staff meetings.

Cook Teams

Parents may sign up at "The Parent Connection" to be on a Cook Team. Cook Teams are scheduled to cook the food.

The number of Cook Teams depends on the number of young people and Table Parents. The larger the ministry, the larger the number of people on each team and the more teams there might be. There may be a "Hot Dogs and Beans Team," a "Chicken Nugget Team," a "Pizza Team," a "Hamburger Team" and so forth. A schedule is prepared before the start of the LOGOS year, with a team scheduled for each week. Cook teams may prepare the same meal each time they cook, or they may prepare a different menu each time, depending on the plans developed by the Kitchen Coordinator and Family Time Coordinator.

Some cook teams will have a head cook, who gives them supervision and direction for the preparation of food.

In addition to cooking the food, the cook teams will prepare the serving area and either put food out to be picked up by table servers, or put the food on the tables before Family Time starts.

Shoppers

This person purchases food keeping the budget in mind and the expectations for the quality of the food.

Set-up Teams

These teams are responsible for setting the tables for the dinner, including tablecloths, silverware, dishes, etc. There may be several teams, who take turns serving for several weeks at a time.

Clean-up Teams

In some churches, the cooks do the clean-up. In other churches additional teams come in after the cooks are done. Clean-up teams wash dishes and put them away, store or distribute leftover food, wash and return dish towels and tablecloths, make sure the kitchen is left in proper order for the next group. (The Clean-Up team does not clean up the dinner tables. If the young people have been given good directions for clearing their tables, they should be completely cleaned off.)

A couple of people on the Clean-up Team should be trained to use the dishwasher. A dishwasher becomes a real bonus when there is a large gathering at Family Time, but do not despair if you do not have a dishwasher. Washing dishes by hand can facilitate the building of relationships and can be a lot of fun when a number of people are working together. Again, this may be one team for the year or a rotation of teams.

Laundry Assistant

This person [or persons] agrees to take the tablecloths and dish towels home to wash, fold and return to the church for use the next week. It is a good job for those who are unable to be at the church on LOGOS night and need something they can do at home on their own time.

To make this job easier for whoever does it, provide one or more laundry baskets somewhere in the dining room where the young people can place the tablecloths when they clean off their tables. The laundry baskets go home on LOGOS night and are returned when the family comes to worship so the tablecloths and towels are ready to use the next night of LOGOS.

Decorator

This person decorates the Dining Room, especially the tables, according to the theme. Some churches do a theme every week, others once a month.

Over time, LOGOS churches will accumulate a large supply of decorations, which can easily be recycled for different themes. Several people may volunteer to share this responsibility. Often there are several people who enjoy creating decorations and centerpieces for the tables. It is good to have several people doing this so the burden is not on one person for the whole year. Keep the centerpieces and other decorations simple but attractive. Keep them in boxes that are labeled with the theme so they can be used again

THE HOW AND WHY OF FAMILY TIME

It is important to provide all those serving in each area of the Family Time ministry (Cooks, Table Parents, Dinner Dean, Set-up and Clean-up Teams) with every detail of what is expected of them. Help them know how their tasks contribute to LOGOS as a whole. It is important that everyone understands that, regardless of the task, they are engaged in ministry. By including everyone in faculty/staff meeting, everyone can understand and appreciate how their role supports the total LOGOS ministry.

It is important for everyone to understand how much others depend on them, and that following through on commitments treats others working in LOGOS as children of God.

The atmosphere of Family Time should be very inviting, full of joy and expectation! Treat young people as you would treat company. When our children and youth walk into the dining room, we want them to know we are expecting them and have planned a special time for them. These messages can be communicated by using tablecloths and centerpieces, real dishes, silverware, and glasses, having a place card for each person on the table at their place, making the dining room look special as if something wonderful will happen here tonight, and having Table Parents at the tables ready to welcome them.

Having a structured, but joyful, secure atmosphere in the dining room will make Family Time a wonderful part of LOGOS. Make the Dining Area special. Company is coming. Tables are set with our best dinnerware and decorated with centerpieces. Food is lovingly prepared and served family style.

A note about using paper plates and plastic ware: The goal of Family Time is to experience being part of God's family over a shared meal, in other words, building Christian relationships while eating and playing together. This goal must be the focus of Family Time and can be achieved just as well with paper plates and plastic ware, as with the church's best dishes. However, an atmosphere of "specialness" is better achieved by using the very best resources that the church has.

Be ready for the Family Time segment of LOGOS to be the first to be challenged. There may be those who, not understanding the value of this time together, may challenge the format of Family Time by saying:

- We can save money and cut costs in half if we don't provide a meal.
- We won't have to involve so many adults.
- LOGOS would be so much easier to do if we did not have to do all that planning for Family Time.

They are right! But we are not doing LOGOS to be efficient. Without Family Time much of the vitality and life of LOGOS would be lost. There is much more to Family Time than eating and the young people know it.

Order of Events for Family Time

Here is a sample of a Family Time schedule:

- 5:00 Dinner Dean checks with the Kitchen Crew about the meal
Prays with the Kitchen Crew
- 5:25 Table Parent Meeting
- 5:45 Family Time begins
Welcome and announcements
Prayer and Blessing
Server is chosen
- 5:55 Dinner is served
Dessert is served
- 6:20 Tables are cleared
Birthdays are recognized
The Kitchen Staff is thanked
- 6:30 Family Time Fun is enjoyed
- 6:45 Closing

Each church will need to make appropriate adjustments to timing, etc. to meet local needs.

Table Assignments



The typical Family Time table has five to seven young people and two Table Parents at each table. The goal is to create a family group as the meal and Family Time Fun time are shared. The theme, the meal, the games and activities, the conversations all contribute to an arena in which Christian relationships can be formed. Yes, we are here to eat, but the primary reason we are together is to build Christian relationships, one of our **KEY PRACTICES!**

Those persons who know the children well will be able to provide insights and suggestions for table assignments that best facilitate the building of Christian relationships.

When making assignments, take the following into consideration:

1. For youth: let them sit anywhere they wish. If cliques are a problem, adults need to intervene and help mix everyone up so that no one feels left out. One way to do this is to have the youth draw lots or puzzle pieces to determine where they are to sit for a particular evening. Another is to put all the tables together in a square or rectangle so that everyone is sitting at the same table. The adults place themselves around the table before the youth enter. Their placement will break up large groups of youth.
2. If husband and wife are Table Parents, determine whether or not they should be at the same table. Sometimes couples tend to spend time talking about family life instead of talking to the children. If that is the case, assign them to different tables.

3. Create table families by mixing children of various ages, simulating an actual family. Resist the urge to group all children of the same age at the same table. Try to avoid known combinations that will result in discipline problems or cliques that might cause some children to feel left out.
4. Students stay at assigned to tables for the whole year. This gives the "family" time to build relationships and become a real family unit.

At the Table

Table Parents sit across from each other at opposite ends of the table when using rectangular tables, or across from each other when using round tables, so they are in close proximity to every young person at the table. They remember that they are there to talk with the young people, not visit with one another. As far as possible, Table Parents never leave the table except as the entire group moves for some of the Family Time Fun events. Leadership cannot be well exercised at a distance.

Table Parents take their turn acting as servers, but not all Table Parents assume this service at the same time!

Table Parents help young people show respect for one another by teaching and encouraging good manners, like making sure everyone is served at the table, including the server, before any one starts eating. Youth and children are given responsibility for serving themselves from the family style serving dishes.

Table Parents support and follow the directions of the Dinner Dean. It is helpful for a Table Parent at each table to sit where he or she can easily see the Dinner Dean and be responsive to instructions.

Talk is kept at conversational tones so everyone in the room can visit without shouting.

Everyone practices good stewardship of food. Young people should be encouraged to eat all of whatever they take on their plates, but not to take any more than they will eat. No young person is forced to "eat their vegetables" or anything else they do not want. We do not jeopardize the positive attitude we seek in LOGOS in order to force unwanted and disliked food upon our young people.

The need for attention is the source of most unacceptable behavior. Table Parents will give each person at the table so much positive attention and love that doing things to get attention will be too much trouble and not worth the effort. If a young person becomes uncooperative and unmanageable, and all steps have been taken to resolve the problem, the decision whether to stay in the dining room or go with a leader to another area to eat privately is offered to the young person. One or two persons should be identified to handle discipline situations when they occur in the dining room.

Everyone, including all adults in the room, participates in Family Time fun. There are no spectators! While everything is not fun for everyone, we play for the sake of the good time and joy of others.

Servers

Serving one another should be seen as an honor. This is a way of enacting the example of Christ to serve one another. In many cases, after young people learn that Jesus has set an example for us and calls us to serve one another, the young people begin to see this as a privilege and are anxious for their turn.

Servers are chosen from each table to pick up food from the kitchen and bring it to the family table. They are responsible for obtaining second helpings when needed from the kitchen and for cleaning up the tables when the meal is over. The number of servers at each table varies according to the ages of the young people and what is being served.

When servers are young (1st and 2nd grade), it may be wise to have two children assigned to get food from the serving table and bring it to the family table. Or, one child can be the server and another can do the clean-up. Young children eat slower and move slower than older children. If one child is serving and cleaning up, that person won't have much time to eat. Another reason for more than one server at younger tables is that if there are a lot of different dishes of food to carry, it will take a younger child more trips than an older one. The Table Parents of young children must be flexible and make adjustments to make sure the jobs get done while still giving everyone a chance to eat and enjoy the meal.

To create a more relaxed atmosphere, some churches have food on the tables with Family Time starts, rather than have the server bring the food to the table. In this situation, servers retrieve more food from the kitchen when it is needed, and clean up after the meal.

It is fun to give the servers a name. For example: Order of the Basin and Towel or Dinner Deacons, or if two servers at a table, Alpha and Omega, or something else. Some churches simply call them servers. Whatever the name, it should reflect the theology behind the task.

Many churches identify their servers with something that indicates to the Dinner Dean which persons have permission to be out of their seats. Servers may have hat, scarf, badge or button, long ribbon, tie, apron, necklace or bracelet. Be creative when thinking about names and something to wear for identification.

The only person who is allowed to leave the table is the server. There are a couple of good reasons for this: a) fewer people walking around means walkways are less crowded and there is less chance of spilled food and collisions, b) conversations at the table are more successful and enjoyable when more people are at the table.

This rule applies to requests to be dismissed to restrooms unless there is an emergency. Leaders are encouraged to see that their students stop at the restrooms on their way to dinner.

Some ideas for choosing servers are:

1. Each table sets up a rotation system so there is never a question about whose turn is next. The order of the rotation can be based on alphabetical order of last names, order of birthdays, drawing numbers, or some other way.
2. "Do it" envelope contains slip with each person's name (including Table Parents). Each week name of server is selected from this envelope and then placed in "Done It" envelope. After all names chosen, start over.
3. Select server randomly each week:
 - a. Birthdays: Add up the numbers in your birth date (month, day, and year) and the person with the largest (or smallest) number is the server; the server has a birthday closest to (choose the date of a holiday).
 - b. Places: Born farthest from (the town in which you live); lives closest to/farthest from the church; gone on the longest trip in the last year.
 - c. Phone Number: Add up the numbers in phone number and the largest/smallest number serves.
 - d. Colors: The server is the one wearing certain color, most variety of colors, etc. or the person wearing the most number of colors is the server.
 - e. Stickers: Before dinner the Dinner Dean places a sticker under someone's plate, on napkin, chair.
 - f. Object: The Dinner Dean tapes an object under the seat of a chair to identify the server.
 - g. Drawing: Each table draws a piece of paper from a basket. Each paper has a scripture passage. One of the passages speaks of Jesus as server. The person who draws this passage is the server.
 - h. Draw straws: The person with the longest (shortest) is the server. Add variety to by announcing that the person with the sticker (etc.) will choose someone at the table to be the server or, that the person to the left (or right) of the person (who fits the description given) is the server tonight.

Family Time Themes

Family Time themes add to the excitement of the evening and make it special. Themes do not need to be elaborately carried out. Keep most of them simple. Then put extra effort into very special evenings several times during the year. Menus can be connected to themes. For example, if you are having a sports night you would have a dinner that reflects what you would eat at a game, such as hot dogs or polish sausage. If the theme is Thanksgiving or Christmas, you would serve food that is typical of such a celebration.

Usually the Family Time Coordinator, Kitchen Coordinator and the Dinner Dean work together to decide on the themes and how these would be carried out. Then a schedule is created for themes and meals for the year. The coordinator then works with the person responsible for decorations to carry out the themes. When possible the Dinner Dean coordinates the Family Time Fun activities with the themes.

It is helpful to keep a record of themes developed for the year. Write down every detail of what was done and put it in a file. Keep your decorations to use again. Some themes will be fun to do every year. Others can be repeated every other year. Use your imagination and have a lot of fun!

When deciding on themes for the year, use a variety of ways to get ideas. Consider the following: popular holidays, Chinese New Year, Earth Day, Election Day, Veteran's Day, Hanukkah, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Backwards Night, Mexican Fiesta, Recycle Night, Jungle Night, Sports Night, Circus Night, Space Odyssey, Crazy Shoes, Machine Night, Pet Night, Hawaiian Luau, Western Night, Ice Cream Sundae, Winter Festival, Safari Night, Hobo Night, Chocolate, 50's, Beach Party, Balloon Night, Picnic, Penny Night, Hunger Night, April Fool's, Farm Night, Guest Night, Puzzle Night, Tater Night.

Include special nights such as Bring a Friend Night, Teacher Night, and do not forget a Closing Celebration.

Create a calendar and assign a theme and a menu to each week your LOGOS ministry meets. Join our Facebook page to have discussions with others about theme and game ideas.

Celebrating Birthdays

Birthdays are important to young people. Every birthday is a step closer to the goal of being grown up. When you ask, "How old are you?" the answer usually comes with a qualification, "Seven and a half," "Almost thirteen," "I'll be sixteen in two months." For young people birthdays are steps toward being able to do something they can't do right now: stay up later, join a team, get a driver's permit, start dating and so forth. How can we not acknowledge something so important to our children of God as birthdays?

There are a variety of ways to acknowledge birthdays. Two important things to remember are:

1. First, the recognition of the birthday will make each person feel special.
2. Second, birthdays remind us that life is a gift from God. When birthdays are recognized, everyone including adults is included. While birthdays may mean something different to adults than youth or children, everyone is thankful for the gift of another year of life.

Birthdays may be recognized every week, once a month or once a semester. Some ideas for recognizing birthdays are:

1. having those with a birthday during the designated period can come forward and stand with the Dinner Dean
2. Introducing the celebrants and their birthday date
3. Offering a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of this past year of life
4. singing "Happy Birthday" or some other birthday blessing
5. having a small birthday box of small inexpensive toys, magnets, bookmarks and other such things from which the birthday person may choose a gift
6. Having a monthly birthday cake with candles for the birthday people to blow out
7. having a special day to celebrate summer birthdays

Thanks to the Kitchen Crew

Great ministry happens in the kitchen while the Kitchen Crew is offering a great service to LOGOS. Many times, the first question asked when youth or children arrive for LOGOS is "What's for dinner?"

Food is important. The way it is prepared contributes to the enjoyment of Family Time. The Kitchen Crew spends a lot of time preparing the meal. They need to know they are appreciated, not only by the leaders of LOGOS, but by the young people.

To treat the Kitchen Crew as children of God, they are thanked every week by the young people in the dining room. The thanks can be done in many ways. Variety makes it fun and fresh each week.

At the appropriate time, the Dinner Dean invites everyone in the kitchen to come out into the dining room. The Dinner Dean introduces each person from the Kitchen Crew. Children may introduce their family members on Kitchen Crew. Those volunteers without young people LOGOS may be introduced by youth people who volunteer to do so.

Some ideas thanking the Kitchen Crew:

1. Each member of the Kitchen Crew is asked to go to a table. When they get there, someone at the table calls out, "group hug." All the members of the table family give hugs to the Kitchen Crew standing at their table.
2. Dinner Dean may print the words of a song ahead of time on half-sheets of paper and put several copies on each table. The song is rehearsed quietly before inviting the Kitchen Crew into the room.
3. A table family is given the responsibility of creating something during dinner and then teaching it to the rest of the group.
4. Choose a tune related to the theme and write new words of thanks to go with the music.

5. Assign each table to choose a different language in which to say "thank you."
6. Give each table a large piece of paper and some felt pens to make a thank-you card for to the Kitchen Crew.
7. Give each table materials to make a badge of honor for an assigned member of the Kitchen Crew.
8. Write a poem, chant or rap to thank the cooks that have something to do with the theme for the night
9. Do a "wave" with each table family standing in turn as prompted by the Dinner Dean to raise their hands and shout "Thank You" then sit until their turn comes again. Go around the room at least three times.

Family Time Fun

Family Time Fun should be just that - FUN! Choose a variety of activities and games for use during the year. The Dinner Dean usually decides which games or activities will be played each evening, but may enlist others to lead them.

When possible, it is fun to coordinate the games or activities with the theme for the evening. The activity could be a pencil and paper game to be worked on at the table and then shared with the rest of the group at the end of Family Time. Or it could be as active as having a balloon-popping contest.

At the beginning of the year when many young people do not know each other, and are in new table family groups, it is important to plan carefully for building relationships among the table family group members. It is also important to be firm from the beginning about expectations in the dining room. The Dinner Dean and Table Parents can become more relaxed after everyone has learned the routine and things are running smoothly, but for the first six weeks or so, keep the activities in the dining room low key with the emphasis on building relationships at individual tables.

Some ways to help build family groups are:

1. Give the Table Parents specific topics or questions to ask during dinner that will engage the table in conversation and help each person get to know the others at the table.
2. Assign each table a task to do together. For example: each table creates a blessing that can be used to start the meal. Each night for the next several weeks, invite a different table to lead the blessing of the meal.
3. Choose Family Time Fun that has each table working at their table to do a task or work on a project rather than having tables compete against each other. Save the active, competitive games until the table groups have become family.

4. Provide envelopes and paper or cards for every Table Parent so that when someone is absent the table group can create a greeting to send to the absent person.
5. Another idea for the beginning of the year that will give each table family an identity is:
 - a. Week One: Decide on a name for your table.
 - b. Week Two: Decide on a chant or cheer for your table.
 - c. Week Three: Design a flag or sign for your table.
 - d. Week Four: Decide on a mascot for your family group.

*Note: It is fun to have inexpensive (and silly) "prizes" for some games or activities, but applause and cheering for winners is also very appropriate. Don't forget that for most activities there can be several winners and whenever possible we plan ways for everyone to be a winner. Use creativity to find a variety of ways to judge contests. Remember the emphasis of Family Time Fun is to have fun at the expense of no one! We are building self-esteem and Christian relationships, and enjoying holy hilarity.

Some ways to do contest judging:

- Ask the Kitchen Crew because they can be most impartial. It is a way to affirm them.
- Invite one or more adults who are eating with you that night, but who are not Table Parents, to be the judges.
- It is best to find someone who is not in a leadership role with the young people to be a judge.
- Have several judges, giving each a different thing to look for. That way there will be more winners.

It is fun to have a big traditional contest to look forward to each year. Many LOGOS churches have chosen to have Cup Stomping and Spoon Hanging as their big events. Some have even created a trophy for these contests on which the name and date of the winner is inscribed each year. The trophies are kept in a prominent place at the church, usually the dining room!

Other ideas for Family Time Fun are:

Cup Stomping

Give everyone a paper or Styrofoam (not plastic) cup. The idea is to turn the cup upside down and stomp on it with one foot to see how loud a "bang" you can get.

To make the contest more dramatic, the Dinner Dean or someone else can build this up by talking about the importance of making sure the floor is clean and smooth where you are going to put your cup. They can talk about the importance of wetting the rim of the cup with the tongue before placing it on the floor and giving it a little twist to "seal" the cup to the floor.

Each table in turn has each person stomp their cup and the person who got the loudest "bang" comes up front. When all winners are in front they each take a turn until a winner is found. Encourage lots of cheering, yelling and clapping for each contestant focusing on everyone participating rather than one person winning.

Spoon Hanging

The idea is to hang a spoon on the end of your nose for as long as possible without assistance. The handle of the spoon may not touch any part of the face.

The Dinner Dean sets the stage by telling everyone that to be successful in hanging a spoon you must first have a dry, clean nose as well as a clean spoon. Then to help the spoon stick to the nose, it helps to blow on the bowl of the spoon.

A story about how spoon hanging got started has been shared with a number of variations over the years in LOGOS churches. A version shared by the Rev. Brant Baker goes like this:

"In the late 14th century an Italian inventor by the name of Antonio Spoonelli created an implement that would later come to bear his name, Spoonelli later being shortened in English. Sadly, Spoonelli was so far ahead of his time with his invention that no one was quite sure what to do with it. After some trial and error, the noble sport of spoon hanging was invented."

Let everyone practice for a minute. Then have everyone stand up and hold their spoon at arm's length. When the Dinner Dean says "hang those spoons" everyone tries to get the spoon to hang on the end of their nose. When the spoon drops off the person sits down.

The winner from each table comes forward. The process is repeated. Since champion spoon hangers are so good at it, the Dinner Dean will need to give the champs some tasks to accomplish to encourage the falling off of the spoons. Some suggestions are:

- holding arms straight out to the sides while turning in a circle
- holding arms straight out while doing knee bends
- saying, "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" over and over again
- having the whole group sing while the spoon champs dance in rhythm
- marching around the room
- putting something on the floor in front of each champ and telling them to pick it up
- doing jumping jacks

It is important to focus on participation by everyone, rather than one person winning.

First Night Bingo

Give each person a Bingo card. Everyone gathers signatures: one name per square. The caller has the names of those registered on slips of paper. As names are called the person stands up. The players look for the name on their card and if found, cover it with a bean, paper square or something else. If you have a very large group you may want to divide the tables into several groups and have each group play together.

Artist Charade

People at each table take turns going to the Dinner Dean to be told what to illustrate. Decide on a subject for the series of illustrations: a song title, movie, TV show, object, Bible story, Bible character, etc.

The person returns to the table and has to draw without using words until someone at the table guesses correctly. Then that person runs to the Dinner Dean to receive the next item on the list.

The Dinner Dean calls time and sees which table has solved the most drawings. It does not matter how many each table solves. It is the fun of working together that counts.

Variation: Use play dough or modeling clay to depict topic.

People Decorating

Each table is given toilet paper or scraps of wrapping paper, construction paper, newspapers, scissors, masking tape and other odds and ends. Depending on the theme for the evening, someone from the table is chosen to be decorated. For example the person can be decorated as: a Christmas tree, someone from outer space, the Statue of Liberty, a Halloween character.

Hat's Off

Supply newspapers and odds and ends of paper, streamers, a stapler and some masking tape and have everyone make a hat. Judge for: strangest, funniest, most outlandish or most beautiful. Have a parade so everyone can see all the hats.

Ugly Tie

Announce ahead of time for everyone to wear the ugliest tie they can find. OR, have construction paper, scissors, glue, and felt pens available at each table for people to make their ties and tape them on before dinner. Judge each table to find a winner. Invent several categories so there can be several winners.

Paper Airplanes

Everyone folds paper airplanes and flies them. The person from each table whose plane travels the farthest competes in a "fly-off." Awards given for farthest flight, highest flight, crash and burn, aerobatics, etc.!

Tower of Babel

Provide a large set of big building blocks, such as those used in a pre-school or kindergarten room, in the middle of the dining room. Each table family takes a turn working together to build the highest tower they can in the allotted time.

Allow only about 45 seconds. The Dinner Dean uses a stop watch to time the building of the tower.

When time is called, the Dinner Dean then uses a yard stick to measure the height of the tower. A recorder writes the information down. The tallest tower wins.

Construction

Create a particular object using various unusual construction items: shoes, scraps of paper, cans, boxes, paper, and plastic containers to make a machine, tower.

Challenge people at each table to use their bodies to construct a household appliance, a machine, a still life scene from a Bible story, current event or something else.

Make a Bed Contest

Put a single bed mattress on the floor. Have available a fitted sheet, top sheet, pillow, pillow case, and blanket.

Each table family is invited to take a turn making the bed with one person from the group in it.

The Dinner Dean times the task giving no more than 45 seconds to do it. The time it takes each table family is recorded.

Seconds may be added for wrinkles or sheets not tucked in or other things that are not perfect. To add to the fun, provide a pair of adult size pajamas that each of the "sleepers" must put on before getting into the bed.

Closing

There is a closing to Family Time that calms the group before they leave for another activity. But more importantly it acknowledges the presence of God with us. Some LOGOS churches choose to close Family Time by forming a big circle around the

room so everyone can see everyone else, singing a song of praise, having a time of sharing joys and concerns, closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Some have found that dismissing children by grade helps maintain order. Have each group meet the leader for their next period and leave together. If youth are eating with younger children, allow the youth to leave together first. If they are eating on their own, they may or may not have a closing and will informally move to the next thing when appropriate.

Guests Brought by Children

The Leadership Team should make decisions about when guests can attend. In most churches, young people are invited to bring a friend at any time. In other churches, guests are invited on special days throughout the year. In both situations, be sure to have a system set up for obtaining important information about the guest before she or he goes off to the first part of LOGOS. If there is an emergency, you will need names, phone numbers and permission to treat the child and the LOGOS young people will learn that this information is necessary for their protection, that of the church and their guest. [See *LOGOS User Guide: Resources*]

Many churches will schedule a special "Bring a Friend" night. In the weeks leading up to this night, hand out materials for everyone to make an invitation for their friend, or supply printed ones. To insure that both the LOGOS child's parents and the guest's parents know about this invitation, provide a form for the child to take home for his/her parents. Copies of these forms may be kept by Table Parents so they are available whenever a child wants to invite a guest. [See Sample Forms in the *LOGOS User Guide: Resources*]

Closing Celebrations

Each year, the Leadership Team will plan a closing celebration. This will usually be the last night of LOGOS. Some churches may reduce the amount of time for Bible Study, Recreation Play and Worship Skills, making Family Time the last period lasting approximately 2 hours. Families and everyone who has participated in LOGOS are invited to join an extended celebration during Family Time. Other churches schedule only the celebration on the last night.

Everyone who has worked in LOGOS during the year should be free to attend the celebration as guests. This includes both called and volunteer positions. Kitchen Crews, Set-up Teams, Clean-up Teams, Table Parents, Dinner Dean, decorators, laundry assistant and anyone else from Family Time should be at the celebration to be honored for their contribution of time and hard work.

Some churches have a fancy banquet. Some have a picnic, fair or other type of celebration. The purpose should be to celebrate the great year spent together and honor all those who have participated, both adults and young people. It is recommended that the meal for the celebration be catered or prepared by some group in the church that does not work in LOGOS. The LOGOS Leadership Team is

responsible for making these arrangements. The LOGOS Director and/or your clergy may serve as emcee for the celebration.

The program might include:

- The presentation of a favorite song from the musical
- Choirs or musical groups presenting their favorite song or piece
- LOGOS Leadership Team doing a skit
- Certificates, small gifts or pins given to each youth and child
- A photo/video presentation that has been taken during the year.
- Words of appreciation from the clergy for everyone's support of LOGOS during the year
- Encouragement to sign-up for next year
- Special recognition of high school seniors
- A chance for adults to fill out a "Reflections on the Year" evaluation form [see Resources Section for sample forms]

Cover the walls with art, writings and other things the young people have done during the year. Add photographs taken during the year. Put up a banner or poster of the only rule of LOGOS.

Have a great time!

KITCHEN MINISTRY

The LOGOS kitchen is a place where many new to the church "catch" the faith by working, laughing and sharing (and sometimes crying) with one another. Yes, it is the place where the food is lovingly prepared, but it is also a "mission field" in disguise. It is a place where Christian relationships are being formed.

The kitchen is a logical place for most parents to serve. It is a non-threatening place for people from different backgrounds, who may be at very different levels of spiritual maturity, to come together. Men and women, married or single, will find the kitchen ministry touches their lives in meaningful ways.

The kitchen ministry has the potential to reach into the congregation beyond the parents of the young people. Everyone needs to be needed. Include retirees and adults without children.

Design the kitchen for the development of Christian relationships. Design the LOGOS kitchen for fun and laughter. Relationships cannot develop in isolation. It takes two or more people to establish a relationship, so always be sure to arrange for at least two people to work together on every task related to the meal. Many times, the more people included in an activity the more fun it is. The kitchen ministry will bless everyone over and over again.

While the dinner hour is the most complex part of LOGOS, in the experience of many LOGOS churches, it is the least problematical once it is set up.

These four "P's" represent the process for arranging for the meal

1. Planning the meal
2. Purchasing the food and equipment
3. Preparing the meal
4. Presenting the meal

Planning the Meal

This is not a contest to see who can prepare the most elaborate meal. Young people like simple, wholesome meals. Focus on foods young people like. Take into consideration the nutritional value of the food. It is worth the extra effort to spend a little more money or time in preparation to avoid junk food and serve something equally appealing that offers good nutrition. The diets of young people already are full of junk food. Even though our society is becoming more conscientious about nutrition, few parents have the time to regularly provide old-fashioned home cooked meals where everyone is present to sit down and eat. There is an opportunity in LOGOS to offer a brief recapturing of the nurture that comes from eating good wholesome food together in an atmosphere of fellowship.

Purchasing the Food and Equipment

The kitchen may dictate how much food is purchased and what can be cooked. Several months before LOGOS begins, inventory the kitchen for needed equipment to facilitate the type of meal preparation and clean up that is needed. Consider the following:

What is the storage space like?

Check for cabinet space, refrigerator space and freezer space. If there is not much storage, purchasing in quantity, taking advantage of sales, or preparing parts of meals in advance may not be possible. If you need more freezer space inquire of church folk to see if someone has a freezer that LOGOS can use.

What is the capacity of the stove?

Is the stove large enough to cook the quantity of food that will need to be prepared? If not, when planning meals take into consideration what parts of the meal could be prepared at home by several people and brought to the church. Or, are there parts of the meal that can be cooked in some other way than on the stove?

Are there enough serving dishes?

Some churches serve meals buffet style and other churches are not used to cooking meals, but have pot-luck suppers or catered meals. There may not be enough serving dishes and utensils.

How many plates, glasses, flatware sets, serving utensils, pitchers etc. do we need?

Count everything! Make an estimate of the number of meals that will be served each night to be sure you have enough place settings for everyone. Remember that in LOGOS we are treating everyone as children of God. That means that we will use dishes, glasses and flatware. We will not purchase paper products just to make it easy to clean up and to insure that nothing will be broken.

How many tables do we have including what we need for the serving tables?

Are the tables round or rectangle? If you have a choice, round tables are more conducive to conversation. How many people fit comfortably around them? When determining how many places you need, remember to leave at least one empty space at each table for a guest, or enough space to add one or two people. Consider how much space you need on the serving table to put out food for each table. Do you need another table somewhere on which to put decorations and tablecloths after the meal?

How will we facilitate cleaning up the tables?

Do we have enough carts on which the young people can put dirty plates, glasses and flatware? Do we want to supply trays for them to carry serving dishes to the tables and to use when cleaning up the tables?

Will the facility handle the clean-up process?

Is there a dishwasher? If not, how many sinks are available? What is the capacity of the hot water heater? How will dishes be scraped and prepared for washing?

Preparing the Meal

Divide the jobs for food preparation among those on the Kitchen Crew so that everyone has a manageable job to do in the amount of time allotted for the preparation. Plan ahead so that when the Dinner Dean says it is time to have the meal on the serving table the food is ready. Sometimes delays are unavoidable but good planning insures keeping on schedule most of the time.

Although it may be more efficient for a couple of cooks to prepare the meal and do some of it at home, that will not facilitate the building of Christian relationships in the kitchen. Get people involved so they not only are preparing food, they are also having a great time.

LOGOS can be, and has been, done in facilities that do not provide a kitchen. New Church development churches often are meeting in portables that don't have kitchens. Some established churches have done LOGOS without a kitchen while remodeling. Food may be prepared by the Kitchen Crew in a couple of homes and brought to the church in crock pots and cooler chests. If the church is new and has not yet purchased plates, glasses and other tableware, paper or plastic is used for everyone including LOGOS.

Presenting the Meal

Think ahead so that serving dishes and platters are of a size that children can handle. If something is really too hot to handle, the Kitchen Crew might put those on a serving cart and take them directly to the table. The table servers can serve salads and other parts of the meal from the serving table. Also take into consideration who is sitting at each table when putting food in serving dishes. A table of 1st and 2nd Graders does not need the same amount of food as 8th Grade boys.

Building relationships and nurturing persons into discipleship is our goal. Keep this in mind in every aspect of planning for Family Time.

Training the Kitchen Staff

The kitchen staff should be included in meetings of interpretation. There will be a big impact on the kitchen when LOGOS begins. It is good to enlist the support of those who have managed the kitchen so that they will be helpful in making any adjustments that need to be made. Such adjustments might include things like:

1. Obtaining additional serving dishes, glasses, silverware, pots and pans.
2. Giving LOGOS access to large freezer and refrigerator storage space.
3. Developing a plan for washing towels and tablecloths.
4. Teaching someone from LOGOS to run the dishwasher.

Family Time is not just a time to feed everyone. The kitchen staff can be instrumental in building family groups and practicing our theology.

It is just as important for every person working in the kitchen to understand the theological significance of what they are doing as it is for Bible teachers, Recreation Play directors and Worship Skills leaders.

After "The Parent Connection" meeting and before LOGOS begins for the year, there should be a Kitchen Staff meeting to clarify responsibilities, set schedules and discuss any questions. Each team will need to see how their tasks fit with everything else so that Family Time is an enjoyable and special time for the young people. Be sure to also schedule be "on-the-job" training. Helping people understand what LOGOS is all about and their role in the nurture of our young people is an on-going endeavor.

Everyone needs to understand that they are not there just to get a job done as quickly as possible, but to build Christian relationships among themselves and to have a good time together. It is just as important for every person working in the kitchen to understand the theological significance of what they are doing as it is for Bible teachers, Recreation Play directors and Worship Skills leaders.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL FAMILY TIME

Characteristic	Why
A lot of joy and hilarity is experienced.	Reality: Camp and conference Goal: God's family
Everyone feels loved and special.	Key Practice: Christian Relationships Goal: God's family
Everyone feels a bond of love with everyone else.	Key Practice: Christian Relationships
There is plenty of good tasting food that young people like.	Goal: Shared meal
There is a happy, confident spirit among the adult Family Time leaders.	Key Practice: Process of Call
Everyone thinks of it as a "Family" Time, not "dinner."	Key Practice: Christian Relationships Goal: God's family, shared meal
There is a theme that the young people enjoy.	LOGOS Goal: Disciplined context Goal: Shared meal
The best table service is used.	Key Practice: Christian Relationships, living in the Kingdom of God
Each table bonds as a family.	Key Practice: Christian Relationships Goal: God's family
Relationships that extend well beyond Family Time are witnessed.	Key Practice: Christian Relationships
Family Time is MUCH MORE THAN EATING!	Goal: Experience being part of God's family
Outreach/mission projects enforce learning in a family environment.	Key Practices: Christian Relationships, Balanced Ministry Goal: God's family