



50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON
19th August – 7th October 2024

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY SPHERE

EPHESIANS 3:14,15

*For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named*

PRAYER GUIDE

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WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS 2024

Week 1	19th – 25th August 2024	Men, Husbands, Fathers, Boys
Week 2	26 th August – 1 st September 2024	Women, Wives, Mothers, Girls
Week 3	2 nd – 8 th September 2024	Extended Family
Week 4	9 th – 15 th September 2024	Church and the Family
Week 5	16 th – 22 nd September 2024	Educational Institutions and the Family
Week 6	23 rd – 29 th September 2024	Celebration and Media and the Family
Week 7	30 th September – 6 th October 2024	Government and the Family

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2024/25 PRAYER SEASON ARE:

1. To pray for the restoration and preservation of divine order in family life in our nation (Psalms 22:27-28)
2. To pray for the protection of the next generation
3. To pray that God will be greatly glorified in the families, clans, and tribes of Uganda.
4. To renew our covenant with God concerning our nation
5. To seek God's enablement to fulfill our roles in seeing God's plan for our generation come to pass.

MAIN PRAYER FOCUS OF THE WEEK:

To pray for the restoration and rise of authentic Biblical manhood.

WEEK ONE: FOCUS ON MEN, HUSBANDS, FATHERS, BOYS

19th – 25th August 2024

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, **act like men, be strong.** Let all that you do be done in love.*

JOSHUA 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MAN ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

The Bible provides several profound insights for understanding the essence of manhood. It gives a blueprint for men to live by, emphasizing strength, courage, love, responsibility, humility, and faithfulness to God. Despite this, it is getting increasingly difficult to understand and accomplish one's role as a man due to the many voices speaking in society today. It appears that we are getting to an over-correction of the devaluation of womanhood to the point where attention must now be paid to helping boys and men understand and appreciate their role and importance in family and community. The following are some of the key mandates of biblical manhood:

1. To Lead

Ephesians 5:23-24

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

The biblical order of creation shows man being created first and being given responsibility and work before the creation of the woman. When men lose the understanding of their leadership place and responsibility, society begins to fall out of order. Men have responsibilities towards God, creation, women, and their families and society.

In this verse, the word “head” refers to the man's authority over his wife. It in no way implies that he is her employer or superior. The idea is that husband and wife share equal value as human beings, but the husband is the source of strength for his wife and family. He is in charge of providing his home with love, safety, and guidance.

2. To Work

Genesis 2:15

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

The Garden of Eden was not a place for idleness. The man was created to work with his hands even before the Fall. God set the example by getting his hands dirty when creating man. One of the most essential things a man can do is labor. Work is not simply something he must do to support himself and his family; it is more than just a means of earning money; Man was made to work as an expression of worship to his Maker, God.

3. To Be A Husband

Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for her

The Bible is unambiguous that a new family starts when a man leaves the family he grew up in and marries a wife (a male marrying a female). He is to love his wife just like Christ loves the Church. Christ's love is more than a sensation or an emotion. Living for Christ is the ultimate expression of love for Him. Real leadership and real love, as demonstrated by Jesus Christ, are self-sacrificing to provide for those who are led and loved.

How a husband treats his wife is so important to God that before answering a man's prayers, God first checks out how he treats his wife:

1 Peter 3:7

*Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, **so that your prayers may not be hindered.***

4. To Father

Ephesians 6:4:

*Do not provoke your children to wrath,
but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

The father's role varies by culture, however, almost universally, fathers are responsible for raising and providing for their children. A father is mandated to protect his family, shielding them from predators and outsiders. Although a woman may defend her children in the same way, fathers are more likely to intervene in violent fights.

Ephesians 6:4 does not imply that a father should never discipline his children. It's difficult to teach without at least some form of correction! Rather, a father teaches his children about life by setting an example. When children disobey, the Bible plainly states that fathers should chastise them in love (Proverbs 13:24). However when children are punished them out of rage or frustration, they are pushed away from God rather than closer to Him.

5. To Teach

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 18:11-21

"You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall

teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

A father's primary responsibility is to teach his children. The most important thing is to teach children God's way. In Deuteronomy 6:7 and Deuteronomy 11:19 it is evident that parental guidance is a continuous process: when you sit in your house, when you walk along the way, when you lie down, and when you rise. Teaching should be a natural part of life. The father should model God's way of life for his children through all he does and says everyday. A father must take time to teach, play, and work with his children. It is a divinely entrusted responsibility.

6. To Model Honor And Responsibility

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

In the family, God has given man a unique and specific function to mirror the Father God to his family. He is tasked with nurturing and caring for every member of his family and exercising the same gentleness and loving control over them that Christ has for His Church. Being a father and husband is a great honor and responsibility.

In Micah 6:8, God outlined the moral and ethical responsibilities of man. He called man to act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. This reminds us that true manhood involves more than strength and courage, but also a commitment to justice, kindness, and humility.

7. To Provide For Family

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

The Bible is clear that a man's responsibility is to provide for his family. A man is obligated by God to do everything in his power to ensure that his family has the fundamental essentials of life: food, clothing, and shelter. A man's job encompasses not just what he does at work, but also home. It's also not just about money; it's about meeting family needs in every way: physical, emotional, spiritual, etc.

8. To Treat Women (Especially One's Wife) With Respect and Kindness

Ephesians 5:33

Each of you likewise must love your wife as he loves himself,"

A man should treat his wife with respect and kindness even when his wife acts in unkind ways. A man should not only vocally communicate his love but also demonstrate it through his deeds. When a husband mistreats his wife, he shows that he is unconcerned about her wants or feelings. This can lead to anger and bitter sentiments between spouses, which may lead to other significant issues in their relationship.

9. To Serve Sacrificially

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

A man's responsibility is to lead by example. In this case, Paul stated that husbands should love their wives as Christ loved the church. This means serving selflessly; being willing to relinquish our rights to do what is best for others, without expecting anything in return.

When a man gives up his life for his wife, he teaches her how she should likewise treat him. If he serves her selflessly, she will learn how to serve him selflessly. Children are the same way; if you want them to learn how to serve others, you must first serve them.

CONCLUSION

The Bible expressly directs men to lead by example and to be spiritual leaders in the home. It also states the many responsibilities that men/husbands have to their families. This is the responsibility of men and it is found in Scripture. There are many other things men need to do, but this list provides a solid foundation for biblical manhood.

Pray that Ugandan and African men in our generation will understand biblical manhood and teach their sons to do the same. Pray that they will:

- Worship God and obey His commandments.
- Represent God on earth by exercising loving authority, understanding their accountability to God, and their power to uplift others rather than tear them down with harsh authoritarian leadership.
- Play their divinely ordained role in the family as they serve as husbands and fathers.
- Play their divinely ordained role as protector and defender of the family, community, and country.
- Work hard and become responsible stewards of the resources that God has given them.
- Model godly behavior in their homes, churches, and communities for others to realize what it means to be a godly man who walks after Christ.
- Nurture and care for each member of their family, while exercising the same gentleness and loving control over them that Christ does for His Church.
- Lead sacrificially.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER

GENESIS 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

EPHESIANS 5:25-30

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He

who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

PROVERBS 27:17

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

1 PETER 3:7

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:11

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

COLOSSIANS 3:19

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

EPHESIANS 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

JOB 38:3

Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.

PROVERBS 25:28

A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.