



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

Written by Dr. James Magara

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS 2024

Week 1	19 th – 25 th 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	The 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 God's plan for our generation.

MAIN PRAYER FOCUS OF THE WEEK:

To pray for the extended family and orphans, widows, and those without close relatives

WEEK THREE: FOCUS ON THE EXTENDED FAMILY

2nd - 8th September 2024

Psalm 68:5,6

*A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation. **God sets the solitary in families**; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.*

THE BIBLE AND THE EXTENDED FAMILY

The two most prominent family structures globally today are nuclear and extended families. Traditionally, a nuclear family consists of a married man and woman living in one residence. This structure is most common in the Western world.

An extended family on the other hand typically includes a nuclear family at its core, with grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and others being extensions of that family living in the house. Financial, household, and parental responsibilities may be shared among the adults in extended families. The highest-earning individual, the most senior member, or the original owner of the home are typically the leaders of an extended family. The family structure is most prevalent across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe.

The Biblical view of the family or the household is more than just man, wife, and children. It includes a group of people related by blood or marriage, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives. Many accounts indicate that while the marriage covenant was core in the foundation of families, relatives on either side were always viewed as extensions of that core. There are good and bad examples of this in the scriptures. A few examples will illustrate.

Abraham's household besides his nuclear family, included at least 318 men born in his house (Genesis 14:14). Counting the parents of these men who went out to the war to rescue Lot, those who did not go out to war, their wives and children, the number of people in his household was easily over one thousand people.

Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes of Israel had a large extended family. All the persons of Jacob's household that moved to Egypt during the famine of Joseph's days were 70 (Genesis 46:27). King David had a massive family with seven brothers and two sisters; and at least eight wives and ten concubines. All the dynamics of extended families, good and bad can be seen by studying these two families. The negative stories include favoritism, nepotism, polygamy, incest, murder, jealousy, witchcraft, etc.

Mordecai, a Jew living among the exiles in Persia, adopted his cousin Esther when she lost both her parents (Esther 2:5-7). Esther later became queen of the empire in about 480 B.C. and was instrumental in saving the Jews from genocide by Haman, a Persian official. She was a product of the extended family.

The biblical concept of the kinsman-redeemer took into account the extended family. The kinsman-redeemer, (Hebrew: *goel*) was a male relative who had the privilege or responsibility to rescue, redeem, or act on behalf of a relative who was in trouble, danger, or in need (Leviticus 25:47-49). The concept is illustrated most clearly in the story of Ruth where the Boaz took on the role of the kinsman-redeemer.

When the first Adam sinned and lost his dominion on earth, the second Adam, Jesus Christ came to our rescue as our elder brother kinsman-redeemer (Hebrews 2:11), to rescue mankind from the deep helpless state we were in. Like Boaz extended his covering over Ruth to protect her, the Lord Jesus Christ redeemed us out of the curse of the Fall and made us His beloved bride.

In Luke 1, an account is given of the birth of Jesus Christ. For our redemption, God prominently worked through two cousins, Mary and Elizabeth to bring forth the Messiah and His

forerunner, John the Baptist. Accounts like that given in Luke 2 when Jesus was lost for three days indicate that Jesus grew up in a family that resembled the traditional African extended family. Family members took the pilgrimage to Jerusalem together and enjoyed the company of relatives to the extent that it took Joseph and Mary a full day to discover that Jesus was missing!

In the Gospels of John, Mark, and Matthew, some women are mentioned at the crucifixion: Jesus' mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene (John 19:25; Mark 15:40-41; Matthew 27:56). Putting these texts together, it is evident that Salome was the sister of Jesus' mother, thus making her Jesus' aunt. The Catholic Encyclopedia asserts that the Salome of Mark 15:40 is probably identical to the mother of the sons of Zebedee in Matthew; the latter is also mentioned in Matthew 20:20, in which she petitions Jesus to let her sons sit with him in Paradise. This means that James and John were Jesus' cousins. In the Gospel of Mark, Salome is among the women who went to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body with spices (Mark 16:1; Matthew 28:1) – a beautiful portrayal of extended family giving support in a time of grief.

The role of the extended family is significant and varied, offering support, connection, and a sense of belonging. Below are some of the benefits:

- 1. Support in Times of Need:** Extended family members offer support during difficult times, such as illness, bereavement, or other crises. They provide emotional support, guidance, and a listening ear.
- 2. Shared Responsibilities and Practical Help:** Extended family members may share responsibilities, such as caregiving for elderly relatives. They offer practical assistance, such as childcare, errands, and household chores.
- 3. Social Connection:** Extended family members provide a sense of connection and belonging, helping to combat loneliness and isolation.
- 4. Celebrations and Gatherings:** Extended family members come together for celebrations, holidays, and family gatherings, thereby strengthening family bonds.
- 5. Cultural Heritage and Family History:** They help preserve family history, sharing stories and memories. They help pass down cultural traditions, values, and beliefs to younger generations.
- 6. Role Models:** Extended family members serve as role models, teaching important life skills and values.
- 7. Financial Support:** Extended family members may provide financial or material assistance in a time of need.

The extended family plays a vital role in providing a support network, preserving family traditions, and fostering a sense of community and belonging. As Uganda and Africa move into our future, we must not in the name of modernization, lose what God intended for the extended family.

This is a week to pray for your extended family members, especially those who have not yet seen the light of the Gospel. Pray that Ugandan and African Families in our generation will understand and sustain the extended family. Pray that we will:

1. Take on the role of the kinsman redeemer to help our extended families that are in distress
2. Shun the vices related to the extended family: favoritism, nepotism, polygamy, incest, murder, jealousy, witchcraft, etc.
3. Honor Parents and Elders in Society
4. Care for Relatives
5. Share the Gospel with the extended deposits

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER

PROVERBS 17:6

Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.

1 TIMOTHY 5:3-4

Honor widows who are truly widows. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.

PROVERBS 13:22

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

LEVITICUS 25:47-29

"If a stranger or sojourner with you becomes rich, and your brother beside him becomes poor and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner with you or to a member of the stranger's clan, then after he is sold he may be redeemed. One of his brothers may redeem him, or his uncle or his cousin may redeem him, or a close relative from his clan may redeem him. Or if he grows rich he may redeem himself.

Zechariah 12:11-14

On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves.

Jeremiah 31:1

"At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people."

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.

JAMES 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

ISAIAH 1:17

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

PSALM 146:9

The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

PSALM 68:5

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

ZECHARIAH 7:9-10

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.”

PSALM 82:3

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

EXODUS 22:22-24

“You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.

Prayer leaders should draw prayer points from the weekly envisioning meetings given every Sunday