



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	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 Church to step up to its full role in the family life.

WEEK FOUR: FOCUS ON THE CHURCH AND THE FAMILY

9th - 16th September 2024

1 Timothy 3:14,15

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

The family institution was established before the church institution. Throughout Scripture, family is at the centre of what God had done on the earth. God began the populating of the earth with the first marriage and family in Genesis. When He destroyed the earth in Noah's day, he preserved Noah's family and from there all the families of the nations emerged (Genesis 10). He effected the coming of the Messiah through generations of families. Throughout the Old Testament, He maintained in preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

The Messiah came into the earth through a virgin in that lineage and was raised in a family. During His earthly ministry, He announced the formation of a new entity called the Church (ekklesia). Families (households) were the nucleus of the growth and expansion of the ekklesia. As the ekklesia grew, the Holy Spirit gave revelation of how the ekklesia was to relate with the family. The Bible outlines several principles and responsibilities that guide the church's role in family life. This role is multifaceted: teaching God's Word, providing spiritual guidance, nurturing relationships and a sense of community, and supporting families as they live out their faith in the world.

The church is not only called to minister to its membership but to society as a whole. Being the light of the world means that the wounded, confused, harrassed and confused in the world will be drawn to the light of this city set on the hill. The church is called to equip families to serve them as they come to the brightness of the church's arising. Below are some of the roles of the church in the family:

1. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Teaching God's Word:

- "All Scripture", includes how families should live in accordance with God's will.
- The church is responsible for teaching and preaching the whole truth of God's word to families, helping them understand God's design for family life.
- The church provides families with biblical instruction, helping them to grow in faith.

Teaching Values:

- The church educates families about Christian values, principles, and truth, helping to shape the moral and ethical foundation of family members.
- The church offers interpretation and application of biblical teachings relevant to family life, such as marriage, parenting, and relationships.

Equipping Families to Follow Christ:

- The church should equip families to walk in faith, guiding them to grow spiritually and to pass on the knowledge of God to the next generation.
- It supports the spiritual growth of individuals within the family.

2. SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGES AND PARENTING

Encouraging Godly Marriages:

- The Bible emphasizes the importance of marriage as a reflection of Christ's relationship with the church. The church should help couples nurture Christ-centered marriages based on mutual love and respect.

Marriage Preparation and Strengthening Marriages:

- The church should offer premarital counseling to help couples understand the commitment and responsibilities of marriage. It should also offer marriage enrichment programs, and resources to help couples navigate their relationships in a Christ-centered way.

Family and Marriage Counseling:

- The church often provides pastoral care and counseling to families facing issues such as marital problems, grief, or other challenges.

Supporting Parents in Discipleship:

- The church can assist parents through teaching, mentoring, and providing resources that promote godly parenting. They should hold parenting workshops to help parents raise their children with Christian values and in a loving, supportive environment and to navigate the challenges of life.
- The church supports parents as the primary spiritual leaders of their children, helping them fulfill their role in discipling their children according to **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**, which encourages parents to teach God's commandments to their children throughout daily life.

Guiding Through Challenges:

- In times of difficulty or moral dilemmas, the church offers counsel and support to families, providing clarity on how to live according to Christian teachings.

Support in Life Transitions:

- The church walks with families through major life transitions, such as births, marriages, and deaths, offering spiritual and emotional support during these times.

Modeling Christ-like Behavior:

- The church encourages family members to model their lives after Christ, promoting love, forgiveness, humility, and service to others.

Promoting Strong Family Bonds:

- The church emphasizes the importance of unity and love within the family, encouraging parents to take active roles in the spiritual upbringing of their children and in nurturing their relationships with each other.

Children's Ministry:

- The church plays a crucial role in nurturing the faith of children, teaching them the basics of the Christian faith and helping them grow in their relationship with God. **Matthew 19:14** shows Jesus' concern for children: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Youth Ministries:

- Churches provide programs for children and teens to grow in their faith, giving them a strong moral foundation and a sense of belonging in the faith community.

3. BUILDING COMMUNITY AND FELLOWSHIP

Promoting Fellowship Among Families:

- The Bible teaches the importance of fellowship within the body of Christ. The church should foster relationships between families, providing a community of faith where they can grow together.

Social Support:

- The church creates a community where families can find mutual support, friendship, and encouragement, especially during times of need or crisis such as illness, bereavement, or financial hardship.

Intergenerational Support:

- The church is called to be a place where families from different generations can support one another. **Titus 2:3-5** encourages older women to teach younger women, promoting mentorship and wisdom-sharing among generations. Churches foster relationships across generations, allowing families to interact with elders and peers who can offer wisdom, guidance, and mentorship.

Building Relationships:

- The church fosters a sense of community, bringing families together to support one another and share in fellowship.

Celebration of Life Events:

- The church plays a central role in celebrating key life events such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals, reinforcing the connection between faith and family life. By organizing family-oriented events and gatherings, churches provide spaces for families to bond with each other and with other members of the congregation.

4. MODELING AND TEACHING BIBLICAL FAMILY ROLES**Promoting Family as a Reflection of Christ's Love:**

- The church should teach families to model Christ's sacrificial love in their relationships. The church plays a role in reminding families that their relationships should reflect the love, humility, and sacrifice that Christ showed to the church.

Fostering Servant Leadership:

- Just as Christ led with humility and service, the church should encourage families to lead by serving one another. The family is the best place for individuals to learn that leadership means serving each other in love.

Teaching Values:

- The church helps families navigate moral dilemmas and ethical questions, offering a Christian perspective on contemporary issues. It encourages the development of virtues such as love, patience, forgiveness, and humility within the family setting. The church plays a role in teaching core Christian values, such as love, respect, honesty, and responsibility, helping families instill these principles in their children.

5. PROVIDING PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT**Counseling and Guidance:**

- The church is called to offer spiritual and emotional support to families including counseling, prayer, and practical support to families going through difficult seasons.

Encouraging Forgiveness and Reconciliation:

- In cases of conflict within the family or between families, the church can play a role in fostering forgiveness and reconciliation.

Family Worship:

- The church provides opportunities for families to worship together, strengthening their collective faith and unity. Families are encouraged to attend services together, strengthening their bond with God and with one another through shared worship experiences.

Prayer Support:

- It offers prayers for families, both in times of need and in gratitude, reinforcing the importance of turning to God in all aspects of life.

6. TRAINING FAMILIES FOR MINISTRY AND MISSION

Equipping Families for Service:

- Families are called to be a light to the world, and the church should help them live out this calling through acts of service and outreach. The church should encourage families to serve together and to be active in ministry. **Joshua 24:15** emphasizes the importance of family commitment to the Lord: “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Fulfilling the Great Commission:

- Families are part of the church’s mission to make disciples of all nations, as commanded in **Matthew 28:19-20**.
- The church should train families to be active participants in evangelism and mission work, teaching them how to share their faith with others.
- The church encourages families to participate in mission and outreach activities, teaching the importance of service to others.

Community Involvement:

- Through church-led initiatives, families can engage in broader community service, reinforcing values of charity and compassion.
- The church helps families to see themselves as agents of Christ’s love in the world, encouraging them to serve others and to live out their faith in their communities.
- Families are encouraged to model Christian values and principles in their interactions with others, whether in the workplace, neighborhood, or larger society.

7. CULTURAL AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Shaping Society:

The church influences cultural norms and societal expectations regarding family life, often advocating for policies and practices that align with Christian teachings.

Role Modeling:

- Through its teachings and community, the church provides examples of healthy, faith-filled family life for others to follow.

8. HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

- **Conflict Resolution:** The church offers guidance and mediation to families experiencing conflict, helping to restore relationships through Christian principles of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- **Support in Crisis:** It provides pastoral care and support for families dealing with crises such as divorce, addiction, or loss, helping them find healing and hope.

Conclusion

Biblically, the church’s role in family life is to be a source of spiritual guidance, support, and community for families, helping them live according to God’s design. The church equips families to grow in faith, build Christ-centered relationships, and fulfill their mission to serve and spread the Gospel. In doing so, it strengthens families and helps them reflect the love of Christ in the world.

This is a week to pray for your local church and the wider Body of Christ regarding their ministry to families. Pray that Ugandan and African churches in our generation will understand and rise to the calling to be a city on the hill that fulfils the roles outlined above.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER

Colossians 3:18 – 4:1

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

James 5:14-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Titus 2:1-10

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

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