

The Year of Sowing

Prayer Guide

Week 29

The Year of Sowing – Family – A Refuge of Love

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV)



Prayer Focus: The union of a man and woman in marriage forms a complete picture of the nature of God, with husband, wife and children reflecting the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The family exists to show people what our heavenly family will be like. It should be a shadow of things to come. A family is an example to believers and unbelievers alike of the love and acceptance we have from God. Look at how often the Bible compares our relationship to God and to each other in the Body of Christ with a family. The Bible says that when we ask Jesus to come into our lives we become a part of the family of God and can call God our Father: "Abba! Father!" The family is to be a place of love, acceptance and refuge. A family should be a place where you can go, no matter what you've done wrong, and still be loved. The prodigal son left his home, squandering all his riches. Yet, when everyone else had turned away from him, his father still welcomed him home with open, loving arms (Luke 15:11-24). As with the trinity, all members of the family have the responsibility to help establish and maintain this love and acceptance within the family. This love is to be reflected between husband and wife, father, children, and mother and children, and children to their parents. When the family is this place of love and acceptance, all members of the family are free to be themselves, and express their gifts in creative ways. Such families make the church as well a place of love and acceptance because it starts in the home and is reflected in other relationships in the church, and in the world. Demonstrating the love of God is a vital part of being a family.

- Day 1:** Take time to read verses about God's love, and talk about how to show love within your family.
- Day 2:** As a family, ask the Lord to show you how to love one another in very real practical ways.
- Day 3:** Confess any ways that you have not reflected love to one another in your family. Ask for forgiveness from your other family members if needed.
- Day 4:** Pray that the Lord will help you to be a family that shows love to one another and those outside your family.
- Day 5:** Pray for other families in your church to grow in how they show love to one another.
- Day 6:** Pray for families in other church in your city. Pray for an explosion of true Biblical love.
- Day 7:** Pray for the families of the missionaries in your church to grow in their love for one another.