

The Year of Sowing

Prayer Guide

Week 35

The Year of Sowing – As a servant – Serving in the Family

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8 (NLT)



Prayer Focus: The truth is, that the family is sometimes the most difficult place to practice being a servant. As we have seen in past weeks, the family is to be a reflection of the trinity. And certainly the nature and heart of God is that of service. Therefore, serving others should be a natural part of the life of the Christian family. Service in the family is reflected in a number of ways. Service means a desire to want the very best for the other members of the family. A willingness to set aside our own wants and desires for the sake of meeting the needs of the other members of the family. As this verse in 1 Peter states, service in the family means that our love covers over the mistakes and even sins of the other members of the family with the same love that Christ showed to us by covering our sins with His shed blood. Children learn the heart of a servant by the example of the mother and father and their relationship of service to one another, preferring the other better than themselves (Philippians 2:3). Children who are by nature self-centered can learn to have the heart of a servant by creating an atmosphere of service in the family. Serving is also learned in the family as the family finds ways to serve the needs of others together. Projects of service planned and performed together teach children the value and reward of serving others. Cooking a meal and delivering it to a person in need, working together to clean the home of an elderly member of the church, are creative ways to serve as a family. Serving together builds bonds of love within the family and teaches a lifestyle of servanthood not only in the family but to those who receive and observe. Imagine a church full of families learning to serve one another and serve others together. Imagine the children who will grow up to serve the Lord at home and on the mission field because of what they learned in the home.

Day 1: Talk together as a family about how you do or do not live together with a servant heart for one another.

Day 2: Pray and talk together about what you can do as a family to live more with a servant attitude toward one another.

Day 3: Confess ways that you have not reflected the servant heart of Jesus in your family relations.

Day 4: Ask the Lord to teach you how to serve one another in your family relationships.

Day 5: Pray that families in your church will be learning and growing in being centers of service in the church and community.

Day 6: Pray that the Holy Spirit would call families to embrace the call to be servants to one another and to their church and community.

Day 7: Pray for missionaries to be empowered to teach servanthood to families they work with.