

## Finding Renewal in the Love of God

### Unit 1: Claiming the life in through Sacrifices of Love

#### Prayer Prompts: Weeks 2 and 3

*If you wonder who it is you truly love, ask yourself this: Who is it you pray for? Prayer possesses the power to resurrect. Never, never, NEVER believe that anything—nor anyone—is outside the reach of our loving Father. Pray!*

Today, we want to focus again on loving others. John writes:

- We know we have left death and have come into life because we love each other. 3.13
- Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 4.8
- Suppose someone has enough to live and sees a brother or sister in need, but does not help. Then God's love is not living in that person. My children, we should love people not only with words and talk, but by our actions and true caring. 3.17-18
- If anyone sees a brother or sister sinning (sin that does not lead to eternal death), that person should pray, and God will give the sinner life. 5.16

Today, we will pray for others, and we will pray for ourselves that we will be better able to “see” God's children with *His eyes* and love them with *His heart* and welcome them home with *His arms*.

**Prayer leader:** Father, we praise you for your creativity, for your love and compassion, your diversity and understanding. In your wisdom, you created all of us in your image...yet we are so different.

**Individual group members will contribute, popcorn style—that is, as the name comes to their mind:** Thank you for --

- *The group will name those who are on their hearts, thanking God for each one. For example:*
- *(Michael; for the life he has lived; for his example to me or to my children, or...)*
- *(my parents; for the love they showered upon me)*
- *(--, who first introduced me to you and your love.)*
- *Etc.*

**Prayer leader:** Father, be with *all those that we love*, and teach us to love others as you have loved all of us.

**Individual group members will contribute, popcorn style, for example:**

- *Father, give us your eyes so that we can see you in others.*
- *Teach me to slow down so that I can know those you put in my life.*
- *Provide me an opportunity to better to know my neighbors.*
- *Stop me cold when I am given an opportunity to show your love*
- *Teach me how to respond when...*
- *Soften my heart towards...*
- *Etc.*

**Prayer leader:** Father, open the eyes of our minds now, that we may know how and for whom we need to pray. There are so many who are hurting, Lord, from the effects of sin, from emotional pain, from physical ailments or limitations. We bring these before you:

**Individual group members will contribute, popcorn style**, asking for God to bless the spiritual lives of those we love. You may also pray for physical healing or emotional healing at this time. However, keep it simple and remember that times of silence are opportunities for the Holy Spirit to prompt our hearts to pray for others which do not come readily to mind; listen intently and be still during these silences. Do not rush forward to fill the silence with words. Pray:

- Be with – (period). (No explanation is needed here; God knows *all* the details; trust each group member to pray fervently for every name.)

When there have been no names mentioned in an appropriate space of time, the prayer leader will close the prayer.

**Prayer leader:** Our God, thank you for being a father who sets His heart to know our hearts, to hear our concerns, to heal those we love, to bring each one, no matter what the situation, to you. Thank you for your patience with us as we attempt to model your love to others on earth. Teach us to be more like you. Teach us to *truly* love, demonstrating with actions the love we feel, giving to others, praying for others, seeing the goodness you have deposited in each one, and encouraging one another.