For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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Prayer Service for Families

Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you came to live among us to show us how to live. You lived in a family, as we do now. You grew up in a family, as we are growing up now. Show us how we can be loving and patient family members, as you are loving and patient with us. Help us to forgive each other in our families, as you forgive us. Give us courage and hope when we feel weak and discouraged. Watch over all of our families, and protect them from all harm. Amen.
In his letter to the community in Corinth, St. Paul describes the love that Christians should show one another. This love is especially important in families.

**Scripture:** A reading from St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians.

Love is patient and kind.
Love does not envy or boast.
It is not arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way.
It is not irritable or resentful
It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

**Response:** Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Petitions** *(The response is, “Lord Jesus, fill our families with hope and love.”)*

- Forgive us for the times we have hurt our family members with our words or actions.
- Forgive us for the times we have refused to resolve a conflict with a family member.
- Forgive us for the times that we have failed to be loving members of our families.
- Help us to be loyal and responsible family members.
- Help us to make your love and care visible in our families.
- Help us to bring joy and hope to our families.

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There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3: 28

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A Steward’s Prayer

Spirit of God, who lives within us, hear our prayer. Show us the way to be good stewards of our lives.

    Teach us to be patient stewards as we grow toward maturity.

    Response: Spirit of God, who lives within us, hear our prayer.

    Teach us to be faithful stewards who persevere even when it is hard.

    Response: Spirit of God, who lives within us, hear our prayer.

Teach us to be thoughtful stewards who make good decisions about our lives.

    Response: Spirit of God, who lives within us, hear our prayer.

Teach us to be respectful stewards who care about the well being of others.

    Response: Spirit of God, who lives within us, hear our prayer.

Teach us to be grateful stewards who treasure and protect the gift of our lives.

    Response: Spirit of God, who lives within us, hear our prayer.

Teach us to be joyful stewards who celebrate all that you have created and love.

    Response: Spirit of God, who lives within us, hear our prayer.

    Amen.