

## **SO SEND I YOU, INC. 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

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**Saint John Baptist Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

**Time: Feb 21, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Every day, until Mar 31, 2024**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82089300351?pwd=qdHdd5LGaTRWPhJCRgOxsK6bL2Fnji.1>

**Meeting ID: 820 8930 0351**

**Passcode: 628471**

**Dial by your location**

- **+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**
- **+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

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## **DAY 7 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

### **MISSION STARTS AT HOME FIRST**

**Bishop Garry L. Tyson**

**1 Timothy 5:4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.**

This passage is primarily about ministering to widows. How many times have we missed God looking for opportunities outside the home when God has ordained that ministry starts first inside the home?

The Apostle Paul, the tentmaker from Tarsus is writing to his son in the ministry, Timothy. At the time of our text, Timothy is a pastor and doing the work of an evangelist helping to plant a church in Ephesus. Paul points Timothy to several groups of people, however, he strongly encourages Timothy to focus on one specific group—the widows in the church. “Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need,” Paul says in verse 3. Throughout the scriptures, God encourages us in our mission work to never forget about two groups, the widows, and the orphans. Could it be that we are called through missions to help those who can’t help us?

The word 'widow' in the Greek, has the connotation of being bereft—bereft of both husband and financial resources. Also, let us not forget there is a major difference between a younger widow and an older widow being able to bounce back after the death of a husband.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you” (Ex.20:12). In other words, the parents had cared for their children when they were unable to care for themselves. Now, when the parents become old, and cannot care for themselves, it is the children and grandchildren's responsibility to help them.

1 Timothy 5:8 says, “Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” Even unbelievers care for their family members. This is like basic morality 101. Even pagans show some care for their aging family members. How much more should a Christian! It's the family's responsibility before the church takes on the responsibility for caring, even financially, for a widow. We see this happening in the Old Testament with Naomi in the book of Ruth. All of Naomi's children had died and all she had left was her daughter-in-law, Ruth.

### **Prayer:**

**Lord let us never forget that our mission field is inside our home. Whatever concerns those in my home today, concerns you. Bless them going in my home and going out of my home—mentally, physically, financially, but most of all spiritually. In the powerful, prolific Name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.**