

Theme 1: Family and Social Breakdown (Jinja, Uganda)

1. What is the role and place of the church in Jinja in responding to the crisis of Family and Social Breakdowns?

- The church is seen as a key pillar in the community, responsible for providing spiritual guidance and practical support to families experiencing breakdowns. The participants emphasised that the church must play an active role in addressing issues such as failed marriages, rejection, and loss of family members. By offering love, unity, and pastoral care, the church can be a source of healing. The church should also educate the community on the importance of family values and encourage people to work together in harmony, reflecting the biblical principles of love and cooperation.

2. What are three practical steps that the church in Uganda can take to respond to the Family and Social Breakdown?

- **Teach financial discipline:** Participants noted that one cause of family breakdowns is financial stress. They suggested that the church should teach the community about managing finances and avoiding extravagance, which can lead to economic hardship and stress within families.
- **Promote unity and love within the community:** The church should foster an environment where people love and support each other, building a sense of community and cooperation. By encouraging oneness and unity, the church can help families avoid the isolation that often accompanies social breakdowns.
- **Be a solution provider:** The church should offer practical solutions to common social problems, such as addressing issues of witchcraft, alcoholism, and domestic violence. The church's ability to guide individuals out of these destructive behaviours will strengthen the family unit and the wider community.

3. What are three practical steps that your church community can take to respond to the crisis of Family and Social Breakdown?

- **Provide pastoral care and counselling:** The local church community should offer regular counselling and support services to families facing difficulties. This will help address personal issues such as marital problems, rejection, and emotional trauma.
- **Organise family support programs:** The church community can create support groups and programs that promote family cohesion and provide a space for people to share their struggles and receive guidance.
- **Promote family values through education:** The church should emphasise the teaching of biblical family values through sermons, workshops, and community outreach. These programs can focus on the importance of unity, love, and faithfulness within families.

This summary reflects the collective views of the participants, highlighting the important role of the church and practical steps that can be taken both on a national and local level to address family and social breakdowns in Jinja.

