

### **Display Windows of Grace**

*Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Tim. 1:15-17)*

Ellen White's thought may perhaps create a bridge between 1 Timothy and your marriage: Social influence is a wonderful power. We can use it if we will as a means of helping those about us. (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 354)

#### **For group discussion:**

1. What is so helpful about Paul's open acknowledgment of his human frailty?
2. What feelings do you experience as you think about God needing your marriages as "display windows" for His redemptive grace?
3. What needs draw you together as a marriage support group?
4. In what ways are you experiencing the positive effects of "social influence" through the ministry of other married couples as you meet together?
5. How can you extend the ministry of your marriages into the wider circle of extended family, church and community?

#### **For couple dialogue:**

1. When I am honest with myself, I must admit that, in terms of my human ability to live out God's ideals as your beloved in marriage . . .
2. As I look back across our history together as a couple, the evidence I see of God's unlimited patience and grace . . .
3. People in our lives for whom God may have been patiently developing with us the testimony of our marriage . . .
4. I believe God would like to work in our relationship right now to strengthen the witness of our marriage by . . .
5. Things I can do to give God the chance to work His miracles of grace in our marriage . . .