

Pray For All Men

1 Timothy 2:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

1 TIMOTHY 2:1

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many cups as 1/2 the number of children in your class, paper clips and a magnet.

Several plastic eggs and small stickers to place inside.

As many “Prayer List” sheets as the number of children in your class.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Paper Clip Pick Up

You will need paper clips and enough cups for half of your class.

For this game, form pairs. Pour out some paper clips for each pair to work on. Give each pair a paper cup. The pairs must pick up all the paper clips by themselves just using one index finger each. Allow them some time to try to pick up some paper clips with their index finger.

Talk about how difficult it is to do by yourself. Then allow them to work together by pressing their index fingers together with their partner to pick up a paper clip and place them in the cup.

Afterwards you can explain to the class that it helps when we work with others to get a job done. One way we can work with others is to pray for one another. When we pray for other people we are not focused on ourselves but on the needs of others. Then God will do amazing things.

An illustration you can share that if we desire to see people become Christians, it is good for us to pray with one another for that to happen. Then you may want to bring a magnet to pick up all of the paper clips to illustrate that it is God's desire to see all men saved. **God wants us to pray for others.**

LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson we will discover the importance of praying for other people. The Ephesian church received this instruction to pray from their pastor, Timothy. Timothy received this instruction in a letter from the apostle Paul. Paul received it from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Now we can glean from each of them the ways and the reasons in which we should pray for everyone, especially those who need to accept Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their lives. **God wants us to pray for others.**

Do you spend time praying for others? It is truly a blessing to pray for other people. Jesus wants us to be concerned about other people. He always thought about others and their needs. He also prayed for others, including His disciples and for us. You can find that in John 17. Let's look at what the Bible has to say about praying for others.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

Being first is always a privilege, and many times it means a place of importance. The first day of the week is important. The first commandment, the first born and the first item in a list are most often given a place of prominence in the Bible. Prayer is to have a place of priority in the church and in our lives.

Often times prayer is given the last spot in our schedules. Do you have a special time of prayer in your day? Paul is teaching us that prayer is a priority. It is to have a position of importance in our lives (discussion idea: ask class about their prayer lives and if it is a priority for them.)

Our prayers must have position. When we pray, our prayers can be put into several different categories. This means simply that there are different kinds of prayers. There are several different ways to pray for people. Let's look at the ones listed in our Bible reading. One way to pray for others is to pray for their needs. Do you pray for the needs of others? You should. **God wants us to pray for others.**

God is awesome and He is able to answer all the prayers of the world at the same time. When we offer our prayer to God we must remember whom we are praying to.

Another way to pray for others is to intercede for them. Intercession means that we step between the person we are praying for and God. We stand between God and man. Praying for them. Praying on their behalf. We use our relationship with God to pray for their lives.

There is one other way mentioned to pray for others. We should give thanks to God for the answered prayers. All thanks are given to God who answers prayer. All the ways to pray are to be offered up to God for all men.

Review as a group:

Supplication: Pray for needs

Prayers: Pray with a worshipful heart

Intercession: Pray on their behalf

Thanksgiving: Give thanks to God for all answers to prayer.

Idea: You can ask the class to give examples of prayer in each one of these categories. **God wants us to pray for others.**

1 TIMOTHY 2:2, 3

for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

God wants us to pray for friends, for teachers, for our parents, and for our principals as well as our president and those in authority over us. It is important that we remember that God has allowed people to be in authority over us and when we pray for them it helps us to submit to them and helps them to do a better job.

We might not agree with all they do or say, yet we still need to do our part in submitting to those in authority over us. Parents and teachers and policemen will do better in their responsibilities if we do our part to pray for them and obey them. Of course, God would never ask us to do something that goes against His word, the Bible, so we do not have to submit to evil or sin.

There are two important reasons this passage instructs us to pray for all men, including men in authority over us. The first reason is that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life. Did you know that in some countries it is against the law to be a Christian? We need to pray for our leaders and our country so that we can live a peaceful life.

When we pray for others, God helps us to get along with them better. We can see things from God's perspective. An example would be to pray for the bully in the class who always makes fun of you. When you pray for him, God helps you to understand that he is probably in need of love and friends like everyone else. Through

prayer God shows you how to love and deal with him His way, to see him through God's eyes. If you can learn to deal with the bully then you have a more peaceful life.

The second reason the Bible asks us to pray for others is that it pleases God. God sees praying for others as good and acceptable. It is wonderful to do something that makes God happy. When you pray for others God is pleased. **God wants us to pray for others.**

1 TIMOTHY 2:4-6

who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

The reason God is so pleased when we pray for people is that God loves them so much that He was willing to die for them (John 3:16). He gave us His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. He loves all men and wants them to be saved. When we pray for others, we are doing God's will. The purpose of prayer is to have God's will done on earth. Not for man's will to be done in heaven. Can you say today that you want what God wants? If so, then God wants us to pray for all men and to pray for them to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The truth is that there is only one way to go to heaven. There is only one way to have your sins forgiven and to begin a relationship with God. The only way is Jesus. When we pray for others, we must pray that they will know about Jesus. Pray that they will accept God's only way to heaven and eternal life.

Bad Egg

Use plastic colored eggs for this game, you do not have to have enough for each child. Make sure that one egg is different from the others in color or put a sad face on it, or some other distinguishing feature. Fill the good eggs with small colorful stickers, but put nothing in the bad egg.

Sit in a circle, and tell the kids that they are to take one egg and then pass the eggs to the person next to them until you say “stop.” Tell them that they should not open the egg until you instruct them to do so. They should only be holding one egg. Have the ones holding an egg open the egg and take out one sticker as a prize, then close the egg. Continue the game until everyone has a prize or two.

After the game is done, ask how it felt to have the bad egg (probably not very good). Sometimes God gives us a friend or family member that we may consider a “bad egg.” We may feel they have nothing good to give us, but how does God want us to respond to these “bad eggs”? He wants us to be praying for them. You could pass the bad egg around again once more and have children think in his/her heart about the “bad egg” in their life. Then, lead them in prayer. Each child can silently say the name of that person to the Lord.

1 TIMOTHY 2:7

for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle; I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying; a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The apostle Paul, who wrote this letter, knew that it was important to pray for all men. He wanted us to remember that when we pray for others, God will begin to give us a special God-kind of love for them. Praying for others helps us to share our faith with others. Praying for others will give us a desire to tell others about God’s

great love for them, the love He showed us by sending us His Son, Jesus Christ to save us. **God wants us to pray for others.**

So, as you pray, remember that you are able to speak directly to God. What a privilege that is! Then as we speak to God, He will speak back to us through His Holy Spirit and through His Word. We can look forward to praying because it is such a blessing for us and for others.

Prayer List

Use the sheet provided to make copies of a prayer list for each child.

Talk about who our “kings and those who are in authority” are.

Encourage them to write down government officials, policemen or firemen who they may know or know of.

Explain to the children that they can take this list home and hang it up on their wall or bulletin board to help them remember to pray for the people that they list. If the children bring it up, give them loving ways to respond to others who choose to complain about our government officials, such as “Why don’t we pray for him?” or “God wants everyone to be saved.”

PRAYER

Lead the children in an example of prayer. Make sure that you include others in your prayer such as the president, parents, teachers or others that the Lord puts on your heart. Pass out the provided prayer calendar to the children and explain that they can be praying for others every day just as the Bible says. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

MY PRAYER LIST

Name _____

1. Family _____

2. Friends _____

3. Government Leaders _____

4. Local Police and Firefighters _____

5. People who don't know Jesus _____

6. Missionaries _____

7. Sunday School Teachers _____

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