

Growth Group Lesson

October 15-16

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Recap: Paul praises God for the transformation of the gospel in his own life, supporting his charge to Timothy to fight the battle of faith well.

Get to know one another:

1. In your own life, how has prayer transformed your relationship with God?
2. What has God been teaching you about prayer lately?

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

3. What is your initial reaction to reading this passage? What sticks out, causes concern, or is encouraging?

As Timothy deals with the consequences of false doctrine in the church, Paul charges him to lead the church in devotion to prayer for all people. It seems that one consequence of the false teaching was a lack of love and compassion for people inside and outside of the church.

4. Why is prayer the first thing that Paul urges the church to do? **Verses 1-4, Luke 11:1-13**
5. Who do you spend the most time praying for and what do you pray for? What “petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving” do you have for others?
6. Is there any person or group of people in your life that it is hard to pray for and have compassion for? Why?

It is amazing that Paul makes the command to pray for kings and authorities, even in a time when they were committed to persecuting Christians. During Paul’s ministry, Emperor Nero committed many evil acts against the church, but Paul still calls for prayer for him and his government.

7. Why should the Ephesian church pray for kings and authorities? **Verse 2, Jer. 29:4-7, 1 Peter 2:11-25**
8. What “petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving” do you have for our own governing authorities?
 - a. How are you asking God to soften your heart to love those in authority, even if they oppose your viewpoints?
 - b. How will praying for others, even unrighteous leaders, in this manner affect our own attitudes? **Psalm 37**
9. What is the value of having peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness?
 - a. How does this affect our ability to share the Gospel with others?
10. How do we keep the sharing of the Gospel message as our central focus when thinking about our relationship with the government?

Paul adamantly expresses God’s desire for all people to be saved in verse 4. That is the mission that Jesus came to accomplish as mediator, to bring Israel *and* the gentiles into God’s family.

Isaiah 42:1-9

11. How does someone become saved? **Verses 5-6, Ephesians 2:8-10, John 6:25-51**
12. Why aren't all people saved if that is God's desire? **Romans 1:18-23, John 6:44, 52-66**
13. What is our part in this process of salvation? **Matt 28:16-20, 2 Cor. 5:16-21**
 - a. Why is prayer important in this process?

Spend some significant time praying. You can pray in your entire group or split into smaller groups.

God's word and Spirit to lead you to love, unity, and humility.

- Pray for one another to grow in these areas.
- Pray for our devotion to prayer for all people.

Our "kings" and governmental authorities:

- Peaceful and quiet lives so that we may share the Gospel freely.
- Wisdom for leaders and policies that promote the welfare of all people, especially the poor and marginalized who are dear to God.
- Our hearts would be humble and compassionate toward all governmental leaders, desiring them and their support to be saved.

All people to be saved:

- Ask God to give you the names of people he is calling you to share the Gospel with.
- Ask for opportunities and help to share and love those people.
- Ask God for a heart motivated to love all people and desire them to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.

Spend time this week in prayer over these topics, as we learn to be devoted to prayer in the same way that Paul calls the Ephesian church to do.