

Sermon Discussion Guide

01.14.24 Message | Tyler Myers | 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Key Scripture:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

- 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Message Highlights:

- What we fight and why we fight should determine how we fight!
- “We don’t fast to prove strength or superiority but rather to discover weakness and our deep need for Jesus, our Saving King!”
- We should often find moments, right here and now, to prayerfully allow God to move in us as we seek to fight with God through prayer.
- “To pray is to pay attention to the deepest thing I know.”

CONVERSATION STARTER

- When is a time or what is something that you have fought for because you knew it was the right thing to do?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God’s Word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- Why does the passage emphasize praying for "all people" and specifically mention kings and those in high positions? How does this broaden our understanding of the scope of prayer?
- According to the passage, what is the purpose of praying for leaders and authorities? How might such prayers impact the community and individuals' lives?
- Reflect on this statement: “Prayers are pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.” Why is prayer considered pleasing to God, and how might this understanding shape our approach to worship through prayer?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

During Sunday's message, Tyler emphasized the importance of how we fight. He states that *what* we fight and *why* we fight should ultimately determine *how* we fight. Regarding prayer, this looks like the intensity and determination of our prayers.

- What does Tyler mean by "what we fight" in the context of prayer and life? How can identifying the battles we face impact our approach to prayer?
- Reflect on your own life. What are the things you find yourself "fighting" for in prayer? How do these priorities shape the way you approach prayer?
- In what ways can the intensity and determination of our prayers be a reflection of the significance and purpose behind those prayers? How might this impact the effectiveness of our prayers?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)

Tyler's application of Sunday's message emphasizes the importance of information, formation and transformation. He uses Matthew 6:5-14, James 5:16 and Isaiah 57:15.

- How do these texts teach us to engage the Lord through prayer?
- How do we apply these examples to our approach to pursuing the Lord?
- What does it mean to authentically engage the Lord in prayer? How can this look in your prayer life?

THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

- What aspects of the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) resonate with you, and how can its structure guide our prayers?
- How does a solid understanding of foundational principles, as taught in Matthew 6, James 5 and Isaiah 57, contribute to our ability to be examples in prayer? How can we share this information with others?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- Why do you think Tyler emphasizes that fasting is not about proving strength or superiority?
- How does fasting as a means to discover weakness align with the principles of humility in the Kingdom of God?
- How can the concept of fasting be practically applied in your life to cultivate a Kingdom-focused perspective?