

Family Worship Guide – Week 34

READ

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8.

In this passage, Paul commands us to pray for all people. This means we shouldn't just pray for Christians, but we should also pray for people who do not believe in Jesus.

Paul especially commands us to pray for kings and rulers in high positions. Even though we don't have a king in our country, God still commands us to pray for our government leaders.

We should pray for all people because God desires all people to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. This is the most important thing that you can pray for someone. The Bible says our sin has separated us from God and that we deserve eternal punishment because of it.

The only way for us to have a right relationship with God and to have our sins forgiven is through a mediator (2:5). A mediator is a person who makes peace between two enemies. The Bible says we were enemies of God, but Jesus Christ died on the cross so that we could be friends of God.

That is what it means when it says that he "gave his life as a ransom for all" (2:6). We deserve to suffer eternal punishment for our sins, but Jesus died to pay the debt for all who trust in Him.

Questions:

Have you trusted in Jesus' death and resurrection to make you right with God?

Who do you know that does not trust in Jesus' death and resurrection to make them right with God? Pray and ask God to enable them to believe.

Who is in authority over you? How can you pray for them?

Bottom Line: Since Jesus is the only way to God, we ask God to bring people to faith in Jesus.

PRAY

Today we pray for Apartment Life Ministry as they place "CARES" teams into different apartment complexes all across Birmingham to coordinate building community, sharing the gospel, and connecting residents to local churches. We currently have two couples from Brook Hills, Nathan & Katie Bowers and David & Casey Rowe, who are serving in this ministry. Please pray that they would have favor in the sight of the management, staff, and residents of the apartments they live in as they seek to advance the gospel through their lives.

SING

This week our family worship song is 'Jesus Messiah'. Our hearts can rejoice in the lyrics of this song as they are an overflow of the promises of gospel. Though we all have sinned against a good and holy God, we have a merciful mediator who, though he has no sin, became sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God. This is what makes our faith in Christ unique from every other religion in the world. In Christ, we have a God who entered into our sinful and dark world and suffered on the cross to ransom his people back to himself. He is our hope. He is our life. He is our Messiah.

MEMORIZE

1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin, grab your Bible and use the Internet to print out a picture of a king from another country. Remind your preschooler that the Bible is God’s word. Everything in the Bible is true. Tell them that God wants us to obey Him and follow His plan for us. The plan that He gave us is in the Bible.
- Read 1 Timothy 2:5.
- Explain to your child that God tells us in His word that there is only one God and only one King.
- Now, show your child the picture of the king and ask your child: Do you know who this is? Then, explain that this man is the king of _____. Ask if could you pray to this king. Would he be able to help you when you pray to him? NO! Only, the one true God, the one true king that created you, the world and everything in it, is bigger, better and stronger than any earthly king.
- Questions: Who created you? God did! Who made the world and everything in it? God did! How many real gods are there? There is only one true God.
- Pray God’s word from 1 Timothy 2:5 with your preschooler.

Children

- Read I Timothy 2: 1-8. In verse 2, for whom does Paul tell us to pray? (kings and leaders) In America, we don’t have a king, but who is the leader of our country? (the President)
- We should pray for wisdom for our local, state, and national leaders to be able to lead well. We also pray that they would become Christ-followers.
- Reread verses 3-4. These verses give the main reason that we should pray for “all people”. What is it? (that they may be saved) We often pray for people when they are sick or hurt, but we should mainly pray that people will be saved!
- It is very easy to pray for our friends to become believers, but many times we don’t think about praying for people we don’t really like (maybe someone is mean to you at school or in your neighborhood). But we know that “God is love,” and He loves everyone. Remember this – it is our sin that required Jesus’ death, yet God still loves us, so we should also love others.
- Take time with your family to make a list of people you all know who are not Christ-followers. Set aside a time each day or week to pray for their salvation.
- Lastly, read verses 5-6. These verses explain that God (who desires all to be saved) and man were separated because of sin. This happened way back in Genesis 3 with Adam and Eve. But Christ came to solve our relationship problem with God. God is holy and can’t look at sin, but all people have sinned and deserve eternal death (Rom. 3:23, 6:23). This is a big problem!
- But praise God, Jesus is the solution! Jesus is called a “mediator” in verse 5. What is a mediator? Have you ever been in a big fight with your best friend? You were both mad, and you couldn’t work out your problem. You probably went to your mom or dad. Your parent stood in between you and your friend and helped you solve your problem so you could be friends again. In a much greater way, Jesus stands between you and God and solves your relationship problem, which is your sin. Jesus did this by dying on the cross to pay the penalty for sin. Now through Jesus, you can have a relationship with God and be a Christ-follower. That is the Good News of the Gospel!
- Spend a few minutes in prayer thanking God for sending Jesus to provide the only way for us to be saved. Pray for a heart that desires all people to come to faith in Christ.

Students

- Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8. Also, take time to read through the devotional above that gives great insight into this passage.
- Now let’s go back and look at verse 1. What is Paul calling for? Who is he asking to pray? Who is asking them to pray for? Is there more than one type of prayer? Paul is calling for every kind of prayer for every person. In Paul and Timothy’s day, there was a widely held belief that only certain people (i.e. Jews and not Gentiles) could be saved. Paul is completely discrediting that belief.
- In verse 2, Paul specifically calls for prayer for “kings and all who are in high positions.” Today we do not have a king, but we do have government leaders to pray for.
 - Why do you think we should pray for our leaders?
 - Take some time to name some different types of leaders in our country and in your lives on a daily basis.
- What does the second part of verse 2 say? This gives us a picture of how prayer will effect us as we intercede for other people. According to verse 3, this pleases God when we as His children live in this way.
 - Have you ever prayed for someone with whom you might not have had the best relationship?
 - Is it possible to pray for someone and continue to hold anger against them in your heart?
 - Does prayer change the way that you think and feel about a person?

- Do you think our world might look different if all Christ-followers prayed diligently for all sorts of people in all sorts of ways?
- Think back to verse 1 when Paul called for prayer for all people. Why would he do that? Read verse 4 twice. What does God desire? Paul is not saying that every single person will be saved. Rather, he is making the point that God desires all people whether Jew or Gentile to be saved. His grace is not exclusive to one people group.
- Think about the second half of verse 4. Part of God's desire to see all people be saved is that they will "come to the knowledge of the truth." What do you think he is referring to? It is imperative for people to understand key truths of the gospel so that they may be saved.
- Only God has the power of salvation. But He has entrusted us with the responsibility to proclaim the truth of the gospel to all people in order that they might be saved.
 - What are you doing with that responsibility?
 - When was the last time that you told someone about the gospel?
 - Have you ever come to an understanding of the truth?
- Take a look at verse 8. What is Paul going back to? What action is Paul calling people to at the beginning and end of this passage? Between verse 1 and verse 8, Paul addresses God's desire—"all people to be saved." We can see part of our role in that same verse which is to proclaim the truth of the gospel. However, this verse is lead into and followed by the call to prayer. We are called not only to proclaim the truth of the gospel, but to pray for all people in all ways.
- Who are you praying for?

Lives/Church

In 1 Timothy 2:1ff, Paul instructs the church to pray for all people, even those who have not submitted to Christ. Paul also specifically commands us to pray for our government leaders. While these leaders are sometimes disobedient to God's truth, civil authority is nevertheless appointed by God. We should pray that our leaders would come to a knowledge of the truth and rule in a manner consistent with that truth. Spend some time praying that our president and other government leaders would come to a knowledge of the truth and would submit to that truth. Also, think of at least one person whom you know personally who does not trust in Christ, and commit to asking God to bring them to a knowledge of the truth. Finally, spend some time thanking God for His grace expressed in the gospel. Meditate on the fact that Christ has reconciled you to God and that you now stand righteous before Him. Delight and rest in the fact that, if you are in Christ, absolutely nothing can separate you from God's love.

Local

Local Church: New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church - Thomas Beavers

Focus: Apartment Life Ministry - group that places CARES teams in apartment complexes across Birmingham to use their residence as a base of ministry. Two Brook Hills couples, Nathan & Katie Bowers and David & Casey Rowe, are serving in this ministry.

Monday: Pray that the Bowers and Rowes would have favor with the management, staff, and residents in their apartments as they seek to advance the gospel.

Tuesday: Pray that God would raise up other adults from Brook Hills to join in the Apartment Life Ministry (www.caresteam.org).

Wednesday: Pray for the un-churched living in apartment complexes across Birmingham that they would hear and understand the gospel, and then trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Thursday: Pray that God would give all the CARES Teams great wisdom to know how to best connect their apartment community to each other, to Christ, and to His church.

Friday: Pray that God would open the doors for CARES team members to share the gospel with those they are serving.

Saturday: Pray that God would raise up Christ-followers with specific burdens for culturally diverse apartment complexes in the Birmingham area in order to use their lives as a platform for sharing the gospel with their neighbors from different cultures.

Global

Short Term Teams: There are no short-term trips this week.

Partner: Ramesh Landge and Cooperative Outreach of India

Monday: Ramesh leads Cooperative Outreach of India, an organization that trains pastors for church planting and serves the poor in India. Pray for God to give Ramesh wisdom and confidence as he advances the kingdom.

Tuesday: COI leads a citywide VBS in Delhi each year. Many children heard the Word of God and responded to the Gospel in faith. Pray for COI as they disciple these children and for God to give the staff opportunities to share with their families.

Wednesday: Pray for God to strengthen Ramesh and his family as they work in the ministry God has entrusted to them.

Thursday: Many pastors in the villages of India are experiencing persecution. Pray that they will be strengthened in the Lord and will continue to stand firm.

Friday: Despite opposition in many of the villages, the Lord has been adding many new believers to the kingdom. Pray for God to strengthen the village churches and for the gospel to continue to spread.

Saturday: COI is embarking on a new mission endeavor focused on equipping local churches to engage unreached communities in North India. Pray for God to give COI a clear vision on how best to accomplish this great task.

Scripture Memory

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5

Jesus Messiah

By Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash and Jesse Reeves

He became sin
Who knew no sin
That we might become
His Righteousness
He humbled himself and
Carried the cross

Love so amazing
Love so amazing

Jesus Messiah
Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer
Emmanuel

The rescue for sinners
The ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah
Lord of all

His body the bread
His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled
And the veil was torn

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You, God
The light of the world

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