

**All in Prayer**

(based on 1 Timothy 2:1-7)

Marina and Alexander and the church that met in Timothy's house gathered to worship God, to learn more about following Jesus together.

One day, a letter from Paul arrived for Timothy. The letter was full of teachings about what it means to follow Jesus. Everyone gathered around Timothy to listen as the letter was read aloud:

Dear friends in Christ,

The first thing I want you to do is pray. There are many ways to pray, so let's use them all. Let us pray for all people. Pray especially for the leaders of the world so we can live in peace, because this is what God wants for us.

There was silence in the room as the people thought about what the letter said. They thought about the different ways they prayed.

A woman jumped up. "I know," she said. "We can bring our requests to God. If I know someone who needs God's support and comfort, we can ask God to help them."

"That's a good way to pray," said the people. "We can pray like that."

Another woman had an idea. "Sometimes I look at everything I have, and I want to say thank you," she said. "We can give thanks to God for all our blessings."

"That's a good way to pray," said the people. "We can pray like that."

An older man spoke up. "It is wonderful to see God bless others," he said. "We can ask God to bless and help others."

"That's a good way to pray," said the people. "We can pray like that."

Alexander raised his hand. "Sometimes I get worried or scared," he said. "If we are worried or scared about something, we can talk to God about it."

"That's a good way to pray," said the people. "We can pray like that."

"We mustn't forget to pray for our leaders," another person said. "We can ask God to help them rule wisely and fairly."

"We can do this together," said one of the church leaders. "Let's pray like this every time we meet."

And that's what the people did. They helped one another remember what the letter had said, and they met together to pray. They prayed for all people and especially for the leaders of the world. Because this is what God wants us to do.



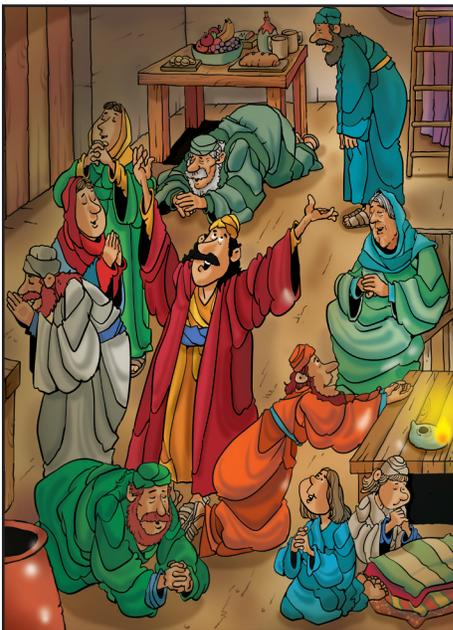
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Paul reminded Timothy and the people who worshiped in his house that people who follow Jesus pray and talk to God about everything. Wonder what each person would want to say to God. Write down prayer requests. Pray, using words and/or drawing prayers.
- Play a game of Follow the Leader to practice praying. Invite someone to lead everyone around the house, stopping in each room to pray a prayer related to the space (such as in the kitchen, thank God for food; in the bedroom, thank God for rest). Say a special prayer for leaders, too, just as Paul reminded Timothy.



Responding to God's Grace

- Invite your family to take time to pray every day—a minute each morning before work or school and a minute each night before bedtime. Put the prayer times on the family calendar and choose a dedicated place to pray. When it is time to pray, let everyone pick a favorite prayer position—head bowed with eyes closed or head up with arms open. Set a timer. Sometimes pray in silence, without words, listening to God. Other times, pray like popcorn—inviting each person to take a turn talking to God, when they feel like praying. Have fun!
- Learn different word prompts to pray for different things or reasons. Practice saying “Help, God,” when asking God for what you or someone else needs; “Ouch, God,” when someone is hurt or sick; “Come, God,” when you are lonely or afraid; and “Wow, God,” when you say thank you or praise God.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Sing these words in celebration to the tune for “All Creatures of Our God and King” (*Glory to God* #15 or listen to the tune on www.hymnary.org).

Loving creator hear us pray,
All through the night and all the day,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!

- Pray this prayer each day this week:

Dear God, help, ouch, come, wow! Amen.