**1. Motivate**

Whom do you know that’s really dedicated to something?

* a golfer

A video introduction is available. Watch it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_pje0c3d9> . If you have no Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download from <https://tinyurl.com/3bvuvvp2>

* a pastor
* a lady who is a quilter
* a teacher I saw on a Zoom conference
* politicians
* an analyst on a news show
* fishermen
* environmentalists
* a lady who promotes the arts in town
* a businessman who has a chain of fast-food restaurants
* a national park ranger who gives tours
* an artist
* people who do a weekly podcast on Disney World

**2. Transition**

Most of those pursuits are admirable.

* God calls us to be dedicated to prayer
* Today, we consider Paul’s direction to Timothy concerning prayer for spiritual needs.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Pray for All People

Listen for Paul’s recommendation.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV) I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Why kind of praying did Paul urge Timothy to do? What are different synonyms for prayer used in various translations you have?

* requests, supplications, petitions
* intercession, intercede
* thanksgiving

For whom was he to pray?

* for everyone – those in our life circles and beyond
* kings (presidents, prime ministers, etc.)
* all those in authority (even if we don’t like them)

What sort of prayers should we make on behalf of our leaders?

* godly wisdom
* for their spiritual needs
* for their protection, their health
* Claim Proverbs 21:1 (NIV) *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases*.
* pray for those who advise them
* pray that they will govern well
* pray that they will maintain peace and an environment where the Gospel can be preached, people can worship God, the claims of Christ can be communicated freely

How would Timothy (and we) benefit from praying for those in authority?

* live peaceful and quiet lives
* live in godliness
* live as holy people
* live in reverence to God
* live in honesty
* in dignity

Why do you think the greater majority of our public prayer requests have to do with physical needs … instead of spiritual needs?

* the older we get, the more our lives center on dealing with ailments
* usually there’s no shame in admitting a bad knee or a heart ailment or even cancer
* we are reluctant to share a personal battle with pornography or anger or fear or a substance abuse
* It’s not always best to divulge embarrassing personal struggles to a group.
* Seeking prayer support privately from an accountability partner is a much better practice.

What does a dynamic or effective prayer life look like in a person’s daily walk?

* is a regular part of your daily life
* always ready to talk to God … early and often
* combined with scripture reading – hearing what God has to say to you
* respond to those messages
* combines the elements of the acronym A.C.T.S.
	+ Adoration
	+ Confession
	+ Thanksgiving
	+ Supplications, requests
* pray for more than just physical needs
* praying for spiritual issues in your own life and lives of others
* praying about current events – in government, the pandemic, natural disasters,
* praying for outreach ministries – local churches, church planting efforts, international missions
* praying for friends, neighbors, relatives who need Jesus

3.2 God’s Desire for All People

Listen for God’s desire.

1 Timothy 2:3-6 (NIV) This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

How do we use mediators in our society?

* one that reconciles differences between disputants
* third party, the mediator, assists the parties to negotiate their own settlement
* mediator may express a view on what might be a fair or reasonable settlement

Who are the disputants and how does Jesus facilitate the reconciliation?

* God and sinners who have rebelled against Him
* Jesus took the punishment, the judgment of death which sinful men deserve
* Jesus paid the price for the ransom of our souls
* God’s holiness is satisfied
* Jesus provides forgiveness for those who confess, repent, receive His salvation by faith

Based on this passage, what advice would you give to a Christian who insists he/she cannot pray for the salvation of a person who has hurt him/her?

* you are offended … so was God (by your sin)!
* He gave of Himself to accomplish the setting aside of the offense, the forgiveness
* God forgave you
* You can do no less than likewise forgive and pray for their salvation

Paul says here that God wants all men to be saved and come to know Truth. What are some reasons this has not happened?

* some people reject Truth
* Satan works against the understanding and the acceptance of the Gospel message
* in some places the Gospel is banned
* some people have yet to hear the message
* we have yet to take that message to them

So, what does this tell us about why we send missionaries to other countries? Is it really our responsibility to tell them about Jesus?

* God desires for all people to be saved
* He has made it possible that they be saved
* He purchased *their* salvation just as much as *ours*
* If we have the message and they do not, it is our responsibility, our task to take it to them
* we must be praying, giving, challenging young people to go as He calls them
* See also Romans 10:13-15

3.3 Pray for the Preaching of the Gospel

Listen for Paul’s role.

1 Timothy 2:7-8 (NIV) And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle--I am telling the truth, I am not lying--and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. 8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

What three terms did Paul use to describe his functional role as a follower of Christ?

* a herald, a preacher
* an apostle
* a teacher

What did Paul say concerning the attitude when we pray?

* lift up holy hands
* without anger
* without disputing

Why is prayer an important step in sharing the gospel?

* we support those who are teaching, preaching
* some plant the seed of the Gospel
* some cultivate
* some water … with our prayers
* some harvest

How can our group pray together for the salvation of others?

* focus our prayers not only on physical needs
* pray also for spiritual needs
* for our families
* for our neighbors
* for those who take the Gospel to places we cannot go
* pray for missionaries by name
* check out web sites of missions organizations for prayer requests

How can we pray for others who share the gospel?

* their health and protection
* wisdom and skill in communication
* open doors
* for specific contacts they have made
* for new ways to attract people to the Good News
* for their finances
* for dealing with acquiring visas, permissions,
* praying against opposition
* pray that they be salt and light, living lives of integrity and purity

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Make time.

* Set aside a specific time each day for focused prayer.
* Just as you keep appointments through the day, commit to meet this appointment every day.

Make a list.

* Start a prayer journal,
* List specific individuals for whose salvation you are praying.
* Include the names of those in authority too.

Make contact.

* God often uses us to do more than just pray; He uses us in the answer.
* As God gives you opportunity, talk with those for whom you’ve been praying.
* Trust God to give you the words to say in sharing Christ.

We are forwarding this message to the underground church in the country of Guipu Macelux. We need your help to proof check it before we transmit it to our embassy there. All our decoding staff are on Zoom meetings for their Algebra 2 class. The decoding key is shown below with a sample message to help you see how this works. When you complete the assignment, pass the results as covertly as possible to your prayer coordinator. If you get stuck, go to <https://tinyurl.com/3bvuvvp2> for help and further activities of intrigue!

= HELLO WORLD

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