

Sunday School Lesson: Prayer in the Church

Text: 1 Timothy 2:1–7 (BSB)

Audience: 6th–12th Grade (≈10 students)

Scripture Reading (Read Aloud)

1 Timothy 2:1–4

“First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone—for kings and all those in authority—so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity.

This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

1 Timothy 2:5–6

“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—the testimony that was given at just the right time.”

Ice Breaker Questions

1. When do you usually pray the most—when life is easy or when something is hard? Why?
2. If you could pray for one thing for your school or community, what would it be?

Passage Context

Paul continues instructing Timothy on how the church must function rightly. After addressing false doctrine in chapter 1, he now turns to **corporate worship**, beginning with prayer.

This is not random—**right doctrine leads to right worship**.

Paul emphasizes that prayer in the church must be:

- Broad (for all people)
- Ordered (focused on God’s purposes)
- Grounded in the gospel of Christ

Teachable Outline

1. The Priority of Prayer (vv. 1–2)

- “First of all” → prayer is essential

- أنواع prayer: petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgiving
- Pray for everyone—even leaders

2. The Purpose of Prayer (vv. 2–4)

- Peaceful, godly lives
- God’s desire: people saved and knowing truth
- Prayer aligns with God’s redemptive plan

3. The Foundation of Prayer (vv. 5–6)

- One God
- One mediator: Jesus Christ
- Christ’s ransom is the basis for all prayer

4. The Proclamation of Truth (v. 7)

- Paul appointed to preach this gospel
- Prayer and preaching go together

Lecture Content

Paul begins with urgency:

“First of all...”

This means prayer is not optional in the church—it is **foundational**.

He lists different types of prayer:

- **Petitions** – specific requests
- **Prayers** – general worship and dependence
- **Intercessions** – praying for others
- **Thanksgiving** – gratitude to God

Prayer is not just about personal needs—it is outward-focused.

Paul commands prayer:

“...for everyone—for kings and all those in authority...”

This includes leaders you may disagree with. Scripture does not give exceptions. Why?

“...so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives...”

The goal is a stable society where the gospel can go forward and believers can live in godliness.

Then comes a crucial truth:

“This is good and pleasing... who wants everyone to be saved...”

This does NOT mean every individual will be saved. Scripture is clear that only the elect are saved. Rather, it means:

- All kinds of people (including rulers and nations)
- God's saving purpose is not limited to one group

Prayer should reflect that global gospel mission.

Now the foundation:

“For there is one God, and there is one mediator...”

This destroys every false religious system. There are not many paths to God.

- Not Mary
- Not saints
- Not human effort

Only Christ.

“...who gave Himself as a ransom...”

Jesus paid the full price for sin. That is why we can approach God in prayer—with confidence, but only through Him.

Key Word Definitions

- **Petitions:** Specific requests made to God
- **Intercession:** Praying on behalf of others
- **Mediator:** One who stands between two parties to reconcile them (Christ alone)
- **Ransom:** The price paid to free someone from bondage (Christ's sacrifice for sin)
- **Godliness:** Living in reverence and obedience to God
- **Truth:** The revealed Word of God, centered in Christ

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Paul says prayer should be “first of all”?
2. Is it hard to pray for leaders or people you disagree with? Why?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is the “only mediator”?
4. How does prayer connect to God's plan to save people?
5. What is the difference between selfish prayers and biblical prayers?

Application Questions

1. Do you regularly pray, or only when you need something?
2. Who are three people you can begin praying for daily?

3. Are your prayers focused only on yourself, or on others and God's glory?
4. Do you truly believe Jesus is the only way to God—and does your life reflect that?
5. What is one specific way you can grow in your prayer life this week?

Final Exhortation

Prayer is not a ritual—it is an act of dependence on God through Christ.

- You cannot come to God apart from Jesus
- You are called to pray for all people
- You are called to align your heart with God's purposes

The same Christ who **ransomed sinners** now invites them to draw near through Him.

So pray:

- With truth
- With purpose
- With confidence in Christ alone

Because **biblical prayer is rooted in the gospel—and empowered by it.**