



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for March 6, 2011
Released on Wednesday, March 2, 2011**

"Teachings About Prayer"

Lesson Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-6; 3:14-16

Background Scripture: 1 Timothy 2 & 3

Memory Verse: "*there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*" (1 Timothy 2:5).

1 Timothy 2:1-6

- 1** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;
- 2** For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
- 3** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
- 4** Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the 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 a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

1 Timothy 3:14-16

- 14** These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:
- 15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest^t to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
- 16** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

TEACHER'S NOTES

Lesson 1 is an opportunity to help children understand that God is constantly speaking to people around them, bringing them to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Our part in bringing them to the knowledge of Jesus is to pray for them. Help the children understand that they are not too young for their prayers to be used by God to change people's lives.

Paul had founded the Ephesian church after preaching there for some time. When it became necessary to take a missionary trip to Macedonia, Paul left his spiritual son Timothy there to be the pastor.

While on his missionary journey, Paul evidently thought of some things that he needed to share with his young friend; so Paul wrote Timothy two letters of

encouragement to express his concerns and to give him some advice. This lesson is from the first letter that Paul wrote to Timothy.

The Apostle Paul's first concern was that people everywhere know that there is only one way to heaven. "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).

Paul wanted Timothy to preach Jesus as the only way to heaven so that the citizens of the Roman Empire would not simply add Jesus to the gods they already worshiped.

Paul's second concern was that Timothy should preach Jesus as God in human flesh. Many people in Paul's time did not believe that Jesus actually became a man.

Because Jesus was a human being like us, He could die in our place, taking our sins to the cross. As a human, Jesus also could show us how to walk the Christian life. He set the example for us by totally depending on the Holy Spirit for the power to do the Father's will. That power came from the time He spent in prayer.

Paul was convinced that Timothy's church would succeed only as they depended on Jesus and Jesus alone. Jesus would save them, He would do miracles in their lives, and His power within them would help them live in a way that pleased God.

Children need to know that they can depend on Jesus to help them live the Christian life. It is through prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit that believers will be enabled to live lives pleasing to God.

The children need to realize that they can make a difference through prayer. As you teach this lesson, help them to see themselves as world changers—people whose prayers can change lives and open the eyes of others to see their need for Jesus as Saviour. Teach them that God will use their prayers to change the minds of people around them so that they will want to seek God.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach the children that God wants us to pray for people so that they will come to know Jesus as the only way to heaven.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

- 1.** Jesus came to die for us and to be our example of how to live the Christian life.
- 2.** Jesus showed us by the way He prayed that we need to depend on the Holy Spirit totally in order to live for God.
- 3.** Our prayers can help others see their need for a Saviour at home and also around the world where our missionaries are at work. We also can ask God to protect all missionaries but especially those in harm's way.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, you will need a bag of pretzels (the loose knot-shaped kind, not straight). Use them as an object lesson, telling the children that pretzels were originally made as a symbol of prayer.

In Telling the Lesson, you will need pictures of Timothy preaching, Paul writing a letter, and Jesus teaching or healing and on the cross. Also make a scroll out of white paper with pencils or dowel rods at each end. Near one end of the scroll write "JESUS." Below that write "FRIENDS," "FAMILY," "KINGS," "LAWMAKERS" on separate lines.

For Helping to Remember, give the children various colors of art paper and crayons or markers. Also bring one or more pretzels for each child.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student (located at the end of this lesson).

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Did you know that the first pretzels were made in this shape in southern Europe as a symbol of praying? (Show pretzel.) The word "pretzel" meant a small reward, and these were given to children as rewards for saying their prayers. People imagined the ends of the pretzel like arms with the hands together or crossed over the chest under a bowed head as if praying. (Have the students try this.)

In our lesson today, Paul wrote to his friend Timothy about prayer. He wanted Timothy to know that God wants us to pray for everyone everywhere because He uses our prayers to change lives.

TELLING THE LESSON

The Apostle Paul had started the church in Ephesus. When it was time to go on another missionary trip, Paul asked Timothy to take his place as pastor. (Show picture of Timothy.)

Paul knew the people at Ephesus well. While on his trip, he thought of some things he wanted to share with his young friend; so he sent a letter to Timothy giving him some advice on how to be a good pastor. (Show Paul writing a letter.)

He wrote his letter on a scroll that may have looked like this one. (Show rolled-up scroll.) First of all, Paul urged Timothy to preach about Jesus. (Open the scroll enough to show the word "JESUS.")

"He came to earth as a man," wrote Paul, "was proved spotless and pure in His Spirit, was served by angels, was preached among the nations, and was accepted by men everywhere."

Jesus came to earth as a man to show us how to live for God. (Show Jesus teaching or healing.) Paul wanted Timothy to teach his church to follow Jesus' example in everything, especially prayer and worship.

Jesus often prayed early in the morning, but sometimes He prayed all night. He knew that God could use His prayers to change people's lives and give Him power to heal.

Paul urged Timothy to teach his people to follow Jesus' example and to pray for everyone so that they might come to know Jesus as their Saviour. (Unroll the scroll to show the words "FRIENDS," "FAMILY," "KINGS," "LAWMAKERS.") "Pray for friends, family, kings, and people who make the laws," Paul wrote.

"Pray that everyone will come to know about Jesus so that they can be saved," Paul continued, "because there is only one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Paul wanted everyone to know that Jesus is the only way to God because He died on the cross so that their sins could be forgiven. (Show Jesus on the cross.)

Paul hoped to return to Ephesus soon. "If it takes a long time for me to come to you," he wrote, "this letter will help you know how to teach your congregation to worship and pray."

The truths that Paul wrote to Timothy are still important today. We should learn all we can about Jesus so that we follow His example, especially the way He prayed.

Like Jesus, we should pray that people will come to know God. God wants to use our prayers to change people's minds so that they will have a desire to know Jesus.

God speaks to everyone, everywhere, all the time, but people do not always listen. We need to pray that they will hear what God is saying.

The wonderful thing about prayer is that it reaches all around the world. As we pray for our missionaries, God will help them tell everyone about Jesus.

Our prayers also can be used by God to help people all around the world to want to know Jesus as Saviour.

God uses our prayers to protect the missionaries from harm. As we follow Jesus' example, He will use our prayers to change people's lives.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Boys and girls, you are a very important part of this church. You do not have to wait until you grow up to be a real help to your family and friends.

I hope you will take Paul's advice to the young pastor Timothy. Remember every day that God is talking to your family, your friends at school, people you see at the mall, people at church, and people who live in other counties around the world.

This week, remember to pray for everyone you know and those you do not know that they will come to know Jesus as their Saviour.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Hand out several colors of construction paper to the children. Have them choose markers or crayons to draw a picture of Timothy. Tell them to draw Timothy praying. Give each child one or more pretzels. Explain to the children again that pretzels were originally made as a reward for children who prayed. Then enjoy eating together.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

Jesus is the Mediator between us and the Father. A mediator is a person who helps people work out their problems so that they can be friends.

Our sins stand between us and God. We cannot get close to Him on our own. Jesus is the One who solved the problem of sin by dying on the cross. When we confess our sins, Jesus brings us to the Father so that we can be saved. Jesus is the only one who can do that because He took our sins to the cross and died in our place so that we could be forgiven.

CONCLUSION

Children from a Christian home will likely be taught the importance of prayer and how and when to pray. Do not assume that all students receive this training. Allow some class time to stress the meaning of prayer and to give each student an opportunity to pray.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for using our prayers to change lives.

Remind us often to pray that people will come to know who You are, and Your love for them through Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

In next week's lesson, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter about how pastors and deacons are to behave. Study 1 Timothy 3:1-13 "**God's RuLes for Leaders.**"

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books
Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

WORD SEARCH

"Teachings About Prayer" (1 Timothy 2:1-6; 3:14-16)

A R G W I R Q D G G V B U Z B
E C M G A S E S O B S Q H H R
S E C L X V U D M H U C O C A
O P L E E J L S O I B K N M U
P I I I P I P R E A C H E D T
P R L R N T T T N J H I S W H
D E A E I L A E I H B N T E O
B E S Y Y T M B U W R U Y Q R
M S I S E G D E L W O N K R I
O K H F K R I Y R E T S Y M T
S I X N I N S B E H A V E Y Y
N N N W V T A D J H I X G R L
A G B S S Q S H X F D L U O P
R S H T U R T E T B E K Q L F
D V A L H S K J T Q M S M G C

ACCEPTABLE

BELIEVED

HONESTY

KNOWLEDGE

MYSTERY

PREACHED

SHORTLY

THANKS

AUTHORITY

GLORY

JESUS

MEDIATOR

PILLAR

QUIET

SPIRIT

TRUTH

BEHAVE

GODLINESS

KINGS

MEN

PRAYERS

RANSOM

TESTIFIED

23 words were placed into the puzzle.

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

"Teachings About Prayer" (1 Timothy 2:1-6; 3:14-16)

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A + + + + R + D + G + + + + +
+ C + + A S E + O + S Q H + +
S + C L + V U D + H U + O + A
+ P L E E + L S O I + + N + U
P I I I P I P R E A C H E D T
P R L R N T T T N J + + S + H
D E A E I L A E + + + + T + O
B E S Y Y T M B + + R + Y + R
M S I S E G D E L W O N K + I
O K + F K R + Y R E T S Y M T
S I + + I N S B E H A V E Y Y
N N + + + T A + + + I + + R +
A G + + + + S H + + D + + O +
R S H T U R T E T + E + + L +
+ + + + + + + + T + M + + G +
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(Over, Down, Direction)

ACCEPTABLE (1, 1, SE)
AUTHORITY (15, 3, S)
BEHAVE (8, 11, E)
BELIEVED (1, 8, NE)
GLORY (14, 15, N)
GODLINESS (10, 1, SW)
HONESTY (13, 2, S)
JESUS (10, 6, NW)
KINGS (2, 10, S)
KNOWLEDGE (13, 9, W)
MEDIATOR (11, 15, N)
MEN (7, 8, NE)
MYSTERY (14, 10, W)
PILLAR (1, 6, NE)
PRAYERS (1, 5, SE)
PREACHED (7, 5, E)
QUIET (12, 2, SW)
RANSOM (1, 14, N)
SHORTLY (11, 2, SW)
SPIRIT (1, 3, SE)
TESTIFIED (9, 15, NW)
THANKS (9, 14, NW)
TRUTH (7, 14, W)