

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Get real!

Timothy is urged to instruct the church in Ephesus to pray for all people, especially rulers and those in authority, so that all might live godly lives in peace. Paul reminds Timothy that Jesus is the one mediator between God and humankind, and that Paul was chosen to be the bearer of this good news to the Gentiles.

Read this week's passage:



You will need: MonopolyTM board game. Play Reverse monopoly i.e. if someone lands on a square, the owner gives money to that person or the person with the least amount of cash. After you've played for a bit, talk about how some skill is needed to play the game, but a lot of it depends on what cards you start with. What does the phrase 'Play the cards you're dealt' mean? Discuss organisations that try to make life fairer e.g. Christians Against Poverty and Christian Aid.

IMAGINE



Play a game of 'Would you rather'?

WATCH



Watch a children's news programme such as Newsround <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround> and pray for all the people and situations in the news.

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to reflect on this week's theme:



Living Scripture

'prayers should be made for...all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life.' 1 Timothy 2:1

The king, prime minister, president, your boss, a head teacher, the rich and powerful... What's your attitude towards people with power? Are you cynical, angry, fearful, curious, interested?

At the time of Paul's letter to Timothy, the Roman governors and the rich controlled everything. Christians were often (and in some places still are) a persecuted minority. Paul urges Christians to pray for those in power, so that we can live in peace, and so all might be saved and know God. We are to pray for these real people and real issues, like war, conflict, strategy, and the economy, and for God's guidance and wisdom for those people with the power to bring change. It can be tempting to complain, give up or simply mind our own business, but Christian love for others and our world compels us to talk to God about all these challenges, asking for wisdom, the power to use our influence, and God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

Which leaders and situations spring to your mind? Chat to God about them. What do you think God wants to do in those situations, with those people?

First impressions

- What 'cards' have you been dealt in your life?
- How could you help others with the skills God has given you?
- What real life needs/issues will you bring to God in prayer today?



Pray

Lord, you search us and know us.
When we need to pray for people in power,
remind us to see them as people you love.
When we think about how to spend our money,
help us to see the impact of our decisions.
When you want us to pray for all people,
inspire us to see the needs beyond our own community.
Amen.



Write

Hand prayers: trace round your hand. Write on each finger/thumb the names of people you will commit to praying for regularly:

- Thumb: Someone close to you
- Pointer finger: Church, local and national leaders
- Middle finger: Others in authority
- Ring finger: the sick
- Little finger: your own needs