



# All in Prayer

Goal: To practice prayer.

## RECOGNIZING GOD'S GRACE . . .

### . . . In 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Prayer is our lifeline, our conversation with God through which God's Spirit guides and directs us, showing us the way of Jesus Christ.

Early Christians were urged to make "requests, prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving" for everyone (v. 1, CEB). We need prayer, and we need to pray for others who also need prayer.

The prayers we offer to God may be requests of God, asking for needs we know about and praying for God's support and comfort. Prayers may be for others, asking God to bless and help them, to meet their needs. These are prayers of intercession. We also pray in thanksgiving to God, for who God is and what God has done in our world, in the church, and in our lives. These are prayers of gratitude for the grace God has given and God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

Prayer helps us grow in our relationship with God. It helps us think of the needs of others and reach out to them in love. Prayer can lead us to act. When we pray in gratitude, we never know where our prayers will lead or in what ways God's grace may open new directions.

### . . . In Your Children's Experiences

Children may or may not have experiences of the various kinds of prayers. At home, they may have the experience of offering prayers of thanks at mealtime or praying for others at bedtime. There are so many ways to pray, and this story encourages learning different prayer forms.

Sometimes children may think they can't pray, or they might be worried about not being able to pray correctly or say the right things. Help them know that, however they offer their prayer to God, God hears their prayers. Praying—talking with and listening to God—helps us all think about the things we need to be doing to share God's love with others.

### . . . In Your Relationships with the Children

In this session, you will have the chance to hear from children about their experience with different kinds of prayers. What a great opportunity you have to help them think about different ways to pray as they hear this story from 1 Timothy. As you prepare, think about your own prayer life. Try different kinds of prayer, maybe a different one each day—thanksgiving, intercession, praise, and confession. Another prayer form that you could share with the children is a breath prayer. It's a prayer you say in one breath, such as "Thank you, God, for loving me."

*Loving God, receive my prayer for your children that they might know you more fully. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



## Supplies

**Music & Melodies**  
(MM) 2023-2024

**Stories, Colors & More**  
(SCM) i-iv, 7, 7a, 7b, 22,  
25, 26

basic supplies  
(see p. vii)

story audio (see p. vii)

candle

green cloth

old newspapers,  
news magazines

## Responding

### Celebrating

balloons in five different  
colors, at least one  
balloon for each person

### Extra

copies of **Grace Notes**  
(GN) 1, one piece of  
waxed paper 5" x 6.25"  
per child, tissue paper in  
a variety of colors

## GATHERING IN GOD'S GRACE

Post **SCM i-ii**, "Your Visual Schedule," to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM iii-iv** for the key to icons (for example, **LG** **T**) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

"Celebrating God's Grace" and "Extra Activity" require more prep.

### Welcoming and Preparing

**LG** **M**

Greet the children by name and with the words "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you." Smile and share with them how happy you are to see them and that you've been praying for them.

Invite the children to help prepare the worship space. Ask the children to include a Bible, a candle, and a green cloth.

Ask some children to help prepare today's "Responding in Gratitude" activities. Suggest that one or two prepare to lead today's singing. Invite a volunteer to practice the Scripture reading for today.

Invite the children to look through old newspapers or news magazines, cut out articles or photos about people, places, or situations that seem to need help, and place them on the worship table.

Post **SCM 7a** and **7b** near the worship table. Ask one or two older children to practice the Lord's Prayer motions and be prepared to lead the group later in the session.

### Singing

**C**

Gather around the worship table. Invite the children to name people, places, and things for which they thank and praise God. Invite them to sing a song of praise and thanks.

Play "Sing Thanks to God"—**MM 23**; **SCM 22**. Encourage the children to sing, joyfully praising God.

### Praying

**LG** **VI**

Turn on the candle, reminding the children that the light represents Jesus the Christ and the light he brings into the world.

Tell the children that Jesus gave us a prayer to use to talk with God. Invite the volunteers who prepared to lead the Lord's Prayer with motions to do so. Display **SCM 7a** and **SCM 7b** if the children need help. Repeat the prayer motions as desired.

**VI** *If you choose to do specific motions, describe the action with as much detail as possible to help children with visual impairment. Use words such as straight, forward, left, and so on in relation to the child's body orientation. Be as specific as possible.*



### Preparing to Hear the Story C

Invite the children to tell about the articles and pictures they cut out. Wonder what caught their attention in the articles or pictures.

Ask:

- ▼ If you were going to pray for the people in the articles and pictures, what would you say to God?

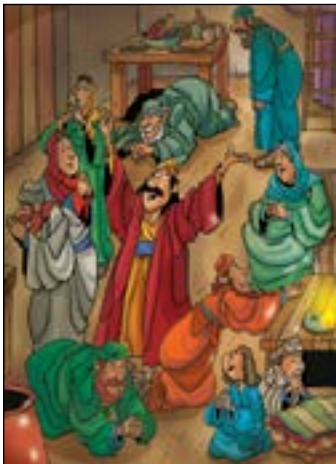
Comment that today's Bible story is part of a letter to Timothy. Ask the children to name what they remember about him. Perhaps they remember that his mother and grandmother taught him about Jesus.

Remind the children that the letter is from Paul, who was a follower of Jesus and taught the good news of God's love to many people.

### Hearing the Story C L

Invite one of the children to find 1 Timothy in the Bible. Have a volunteer read 1 Timothy 2:1-7. Conclude the reading by saying, "Word of wisdom, Word of grace," and prompt the children to say, "Thanks be to God." Place the open Bible on the table.

Invite the children to show you some different prayer postures, ways that our bodies may be when we pray. Some ideas might be: hands together, hands with palms up, arms raised with palms open, head bowed, kneeling, and so forth. Have the children choose different prayer postures to pose in and hold each time they hear the word *pray* as you read the story again using **SCM 7** or listen to the story audio.



### Reflecting on God's Grace

Wonder aloud what is challenging about praying for people we know and praying for people we don't know.

Wonder what happens when people pray.

Form pairs of older and younger children and have each pair choose an article or picture from the worship table and write or say a prayer for that situation. Gather and ask each pair to offer the prayer aloud.

### Singing

Sing "Care Enough to Care"—**MM 27; SCM 25**—and celebrate how Jesus' grace calls us to care for and pray for one another.

Turn off the candle.

- T *For children who struggle with transitions, consider a quick physical activity—such as doing chair push-ups, squeezing hands together, and stretching.*



## RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE

Select activities appropriate for your group and the time available.

### Claiming God's Grace



If a child in your group is sight or hearing impaired, suggest that they touch their heart for that sense and thank God for something they enjoy.

Help the children learn a way to pray. Ask the children to list the five senses. List them on newsprint in the following order:

Sight  
Smell  
Hearing  
Taste  
Touch

Invite the children to find a quiet place where they can see the words. Have them start at the top, touching their eyes, and say, "God, I am thankful for (*name something or someone they can see*)."

Next move down to touch their nose and say, "God, I am thankful for (*name something they can smell*)."

Move down to touch their ears and say, "God, I am thankful for (*name something or someone they can hear*)."

Touch their mouth and say, "God, I am thankful for (*name something they can taste*)."

Hold their hands out and say, "God, I am thankful for (*name something or someone they hold*)."

Challenge the children to share with their family how to pray the five senses.



### Celebrating God's Grace



Be mindful of any latex allergies.

*Before the session, inflate and tie off five different-colored balloons, at least one per person. Make a chart on newsprint to assign each balloon color to one of the following five phrases: "God, help my friend who needs you"; "Thank you, God"; "God, bless and help others"; "God, help me"; "God, help our leaders." For example: blue = "Thank you, God."*

Explain the activity: While you play "God's Love for Us Is Truly Amazing (El amor de Dios es maravilloso)"—**MM 29**—the children will bounce balloons in the air, everyone helping to keep them afloat. When the music stops, each child will catch one balloon. Point out the chart with the color code. Explain that each child will lead a short prayer, according to his or her balloon color. For example, a child holding a blue balloon thanks God for something and the group responds, "Thank you, God."

Give each child an inflated balloon. Play and pause the music several times, repeating the color prayers each time. Close the prayer time by saying, "In Jesus' name, we pray," and prompt the children to respond with "Amen."



### Praying God's Grace

M MS

Remind the children that the story mentions different motives or reasons for prayers. You can pray for God to give comfort. You can pray to give thanks to God. You can pray for God to help others, and you can pray when you are worried or scared. Wonder with the children what other joys or concerns we can share with God in prayer.

Ask the children to come up with movements for the different reasons for prayer that you have talked about. For example, you could raise your hands to the sky to give thanks to God. Encourage the children to come up with different movements and then use them to pray. Challenge the children to share the movement prayers with their families as they pray this week.

### Offering God's Grace

LD

Help the children make hand prayer prompts to offer to their families. Invite them to trace their hands on paper. Have them write the following words on each part of the hand, assisting with writing as needed:

- ▼ In the palm: Pray for . . .
- ▼ On the thumb: family and friends
- ▼ On the first finger: people in the world
- ▼ On the middle finger: people who lead and help
- ▼ On the ring finger: people who are sick or injured
- ▼ On the pinky finger: my thanks and needs

Tell the children to cut out the paper hands and glue them to construction paper. Show the children how the phrases can be used to start their own prayers.

When the children have finished, ask them to take a moment to pray with their prayer hands. Encourage them to share the prayer hands with their families. Suggest they set family prayer times.



### Extra Activity

L TD

Mention that the story encourages us to pray when we feel worried or scared. In those moments, we can ask God to be our light and our guide. Make mosaics to illustrate God's grace that helps us when we feel scared or worried. Use the following directions:

- ▼ Cut out the heart frame on **GN 1**. Cut out the smaller heart shape on the dotted line.
- ▼ Tear tissue paper into small pieces.
- ▼ Glue tissue paper pieces in an overlapping design onto waxed paper, not quite to the edge of the paper.
- ▼ Glue the heart frame over the waxed paper mosaic. Trim the edges of the waxed paper.



- ▼ Punch a hole at the top of the frame, where indicated, and attach yarn for hanging.
- ▼ If you have a window, hang the mosaics there to dry.

As you and the children work, talk about how praying can help us when we are worried about something that is going on in our lives or when we feel scared. Talk about the light of God’s grace shining through even when we feel down or alone. God loves us no matter how we feel, and we are invited to pray continually and to rejoice in God.

Encourage the children to take the mosaics home as a reminder for them and their families to trust God’s grace.



Ask parents and caregivers for their email addresses so you can send the Grace Sightings link, or invite them to visit [www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads](http://www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads). Remind the parents and caregivers about the story audio (see p. vii).

## LOVING AND SERVING GOD

Invite the children to help you clean up the space.

Celebrate together by singing “God’s Love for Us Is Truly Amazing (El amor de Dios es maravilloso)”—**MM 29; SCM 26**. Ask the children to name one way they can honor God in the next week. Suggest that one way they can honor God is by praying for loved ones and friends. They can also pray for people they don’t know. Challenge them to do so.

Bless each child as they leave, saying, “(Name), go out to share the love and grace of Jesus with everyone you meet.”

