

## Small Group Guide

### GLOBAL PRAYER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

August 28, 2011

1 Timothy 2:1–7

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God’s Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

### Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

**Welcome**—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

**Review**—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they’ve had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

**Prayer**—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today’s truths.

### Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week’s message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

#### Sermon Outline

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1 Timothy 2:1-7

#### The Initial Exhortation...

- Pray            to God for all peoples.
  - Who we pray for...
    - Every     kind            of person.
    - Leaders in high            positions           .
  - What we pray for...
    - Peace            amidst persecution.
    - Salvation            for persecutors.
- The            progress            of the gospel in the world is dependent on the            prayers     of God’s people in the church.

#### The Theological Motivation...

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- We pray because God \_\_\_\_\_ desires \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ salvation \_\_\_\_\_ of all peoples.
  - This does not mean that all will be \_\_\_\_\_ saved \_\_\_\_\_.
  - This does not mean that God's will has been \_\_\_\_\_ thwarted \_\_\_\_\_.
  - This does mean that God \_\_\_\_\_ loves \_\_\_\_\_ all peoples.
- We pray because God \_\_\_\_\_ deserves \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ honor \_\_\_\_\_ of all peoples.
  - Worship is the \_\_\_\_\_ fuel \_\_\_\_\_ of world praying.
  - Worship is the \_\_\_\_\_ goal \_\_\_\_\_ of world praying.
- We pray because Christ \_\_\_\_\_ died for \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ rescue \_\_\_\_\_ of all peoples.
  - Jesus is unique in \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ He is.
    - He is fully able to identify with \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_.
    - He is fully able to identify with \_\_\_\_\_ man \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Jesus is unique in what He \_\_\_\_\_ did \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Man alone \_\_\_\_\_ owed \_\_\_\_\_ this price.
    - God alone could \_\_\_\_\_ pay \_\_\_\_\_ this price.
  - Jesus is unique in what He \_\_\_\_\_ does \_\_\_\_\_.
    - He lives as our \_\_\_\_\_ Mediator \_\_\_\_\_.
    - He leads us on \_\_\_\_\_ mission \_\_\_\_\_.

#### The Obvious Implication...

- As we pray to God for all peoples, we \_\_\_\_\_ preach \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel to all peoples.
  - We \_\_\_\_\_ herald \_\_\_\_\_ the cross of Christ.
  - We \_\_\_\_\_ teach \_\_\_\_\_ the commands of Christ.

#### The Coming Conclusion...

- We pray with confidence and we preach with boldness because we know...
  - Our mission will \_\_\_\_\_ prevail \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Our Mediator will be \_\_\_\_\_ praised \_\_\_\_\_.

### Message Summary

*Dr. Platt began the message with a call to trust our lives completely to Christ, in light of the reality of death, heaven, and hell. He asked, "Does Christ have your heart, your life?" Have you been saved?*

*As we trust Christ, we follow His Word. In 1 Timothy 2:1–7, the Spirit calls us to pray to God for all peoples. We are to pray for every kind of person and for leaders in high positions. We are praying for peace and salvation. God has made the progress of the gospel in the world dependent on the prayers of His people.*

*Why do we pray? Because God desires the salvation of all peoples (and we should too); because God deserves the worship of all peoples (and we should desire He have it); because Christ died to rescue all peoples (and we want follow Him on mission so He will have His reward). We pray and preach Christ knowing that our mission will prevail and our Mediator will be praised.*

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#### **Discuss**

Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to desire and value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- Read 1 Timothy 2:1–3. What kinds of groups of people should we be praying for? Why should we be praying for a diversity of peoples?
- For whom do you normally tend to pray? Why? For whom would you find it especially difficult to pray? Why?
- How can prayer change your attitude toward people who are different from you in some way? Toward your enemies? Toward persecutors? Toward people who live far away from you? To people who live in your neighborhood?
- How can you make a plan to diversify your prayers and be sure you are praying for our leaders? How should reading/watching the news help you to pray for more people and for leaders in high positions?
- How did peace in the first century (*pax Romana*) benefit the spread of the gospel? How can peace benefit the progress of the gospel today? How should we pray for peace? How can we have peace even in the midst of persecution, even persecution like that faced by the early Christians under Emperor Nero?
- The progress of the gospel is dependent on the prayers of God's people. How does this fact change your perspective on prayer? On your involvement in prayer? On your involvement in missions?
- How can you make praying for the progress of the gospel a priority this week in your life, your family, your small group? What changes are necessary in your life to increase time in focused prayer for all peoples and for leaders in high positions? What prevents you from making these changes?
- Read 1 Timothy 2:4–6. What are the theological motivations for prayer for all peoples?
- Does God love all peoples? How should that truth affect our hearts? Will all individuals be saved? Since all individuals will not be saved, does this mean that God's purposes for the world have been thwarted?
- How is worship the ultimate goal of praying for the lost? Does it pain your heart that God is not worshipped among billions of people worldwide? Does it grieve you that whole people groups are yet to even hear the gospel, much less glorify God the way He deserves? How should love for God take preeminence even over love for people? Are your prayers motivated by a desire to see God glorified? Why or not? Who can change our hearts?
- Why is it critical for our salvation that Christ Jesus is both God and man? How does 1 Timothy 2:5–6 refute the idea that there are many gods or many paths to God? Why is it loving to tell others of the uniqueness of Christ, even if they are upset by it?
- Read 1 Timothy 2:7. How does prayer lead to action in our lives? What actions?
- How can we preach the gospel to the lost this week, this month, this year? How should the realities of death, heaven, and hell give urgency and perspective to our daily lives?
- Why should we pray with confidence and preach with boldness?
- You might want to begin this study or end this study with a review of the gospel from our website encouraging everyone to memorize the simple outline found at [www.brookhills.org/gospel](http://www.brookhills.org/gospel).

#### **Respond . . .**

*Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:*

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to value?
- How do your desires and values need to change to align with His desires and values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

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Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

### ***Weekly Prayer Focus ...***

- ***Lives and Church:*** *Pray that our leaders would come to a knowledge of the truth and rule in a manner consistent with that truth.*
- ***Local:*** *This week we are praying for the ministry of Apartment Life as they place “CARES” teams into different apartment complexes all across Birmingham to coordinate building community, sharing the gospel, and connecting residents to local churches. We are especially praying for Brook Hill’s members, Nathan & Katie Bowers and David & Casey Rowe, who are serving in the Apartment Life Ministry. We are also praying for New Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church, Thomas Beavers, pastor.*
- ***Global:*** *This week we are praying for our partner Ramesh Landge and his organization Cooperative Outreach of India.*