

# ECCLESIA

## RESPONDING TO GRACE: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

### SHARINGSTORIES

Prayer is the inevitable response to embracing a story of grace. As believers, we all have our own story of grace. We are also part of the larger story of grace we have as part of the body of Christ. The role of prayer is to remind us of our dependence upon the Father for every aspect of our lives. Prayer gives us the opportunity to come to Him with all of our requests, thanks, praises, thoughts, and feelings. Prayer is the way we communicate with the Father. It also allows us to see other people through the lens of God's grace. As we talk with the Father about people, we are enabled to see them as He sees them and to change our hearts accordingly. Prayer also enables us to live out the message of God's grace as we join Him in His efforts to rescue all people. The salvation God offers is not only from eternal separation from God, it is also about being rescued from the trials, pain, and sufferings we go through as believers. Prayer is the way we live out our identity as believers in the one true God of the universe.

*Why is prayer so easily overlooked? Not given its proper time, effort, and energy?*

*How does understanding prayer as our opportunity to talk to God compare to your conception of prayer?*

### DIGGINGIN

Read the first seven verses of chapter two.

*Why do you think Paul is introducing this concept at this point in his letter?*

*Do you think there is any significance in Paul calling attention to kings and those in authority? Explain.*

*What is the connection between prayer and living peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness?*

### GOINGDEEPER

Paul makes it clear that we are utterly dependent upon God for absolutely everything. He also draws a connection between believing this and the degree to which we pray.

*Do you think there is a connection between realizing our dependence and how much we pray?*

*When do you find yourself praying the most? When do you pray the least? Why?*

### PRAYER

Spend this time discerning how best pray for one another. Praise God for one specific item and petition Him for one request on their behalf.

*Identify one person in your sphere of influence for whom you can pray. Pray for an increased awareness of our dependence on the Father and an increased desire to spend time talking with Him through prayer.*

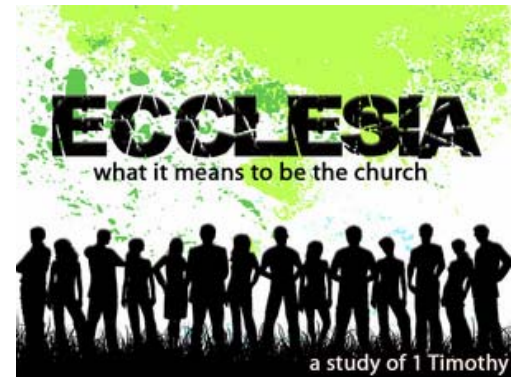
*Please pray for our transition to the new building.*

### REFLECTION

*What one idea has the Spirit impressed on your mind and heart from this passage?*

*How are you growing in your relationship with the Father?*

*What areas of your life are you opening up to the Father?*



# ECCLESIAWHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE CHURCH