

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Praying

September 25 & 26, 2021

The more we pray, the more we make prayer into a daily habit. Praying often brings to mind an image of God. Our image of God and our image of prayer are intimately linked. We are going to look at different avenues of prayer, new opportunities to form new habits of prayer.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-3

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

There are some people who may have an image of God as one who lives far off in the universe living in some kind of control room deciding which prayers to answer and which ones to deny. Praying to that image isn't nurturing or comforting. Instead, imagine praying to God as the one "God living inside of each one of us." Each breath we take is God as Spirit living and breathing within us. God is literally as close as the air we breathe. That really opens up our image of prayer. So when we pray to God, God resides inside of us, God is not distant from us at all! In this reading from Timothy we can imagine praying to God who resides within us. Timothy encourages us to pray every way we know how for everyone we know! It implies that prayer is more than making requests. It's also about a growing awareness of God's constant presence and loving intention toward us and all creation.

What Timothy was writing about in our reading today is encouraging us to get in the habit of praying. It doesn't have to take a particular form, just do it! So how can prayer become more of a habit in our lives? Here are some suggestions to help form prayer practices and prayer opportunities: **pray simply** (it doesn't need to be complicated, fancy words), **read the bible and pray over verses**, **be active and use your senses** during prayer (go for a walk, listen to music, etc.), and **pray for everyone** (loved ones, people that rub you the wrong way, others you know and some you don't know, etc.).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about your prayer life. What are some of your favorite ways to spend time in prayer?
- What is God teaching us in this passage?
- What does developing a habit of prayer look like for you?
- How might we see things differently as a result of this intentional time spent in prayer?

APPLICATION: This week, consider one small step you can take to set aside time to pray. What would it take to make prayer a regular habit in your life? God is ready to meet you there.