

## Go Out and Pray!

Paul writes to the young church leader Timothy (1 Timothy 2:1-8) to guide and encourage him in his ministry to a challenging church in difficult circumstances. He uses the word 'all' a lot, reminding us that we are called to pray for all people as God wants all to be saved and that Jesus died on the cross in order for this to happen.

All is everyone: the high and the low; the educated and those unschooled; the rich and poor; the good and the bad; the persecutor and the victim. Whoever they are makes no difference to God as he wants them all to receive what he has for them. He loves them and so we are to love them too. What is more loving than to come to God in prayer and ask on their behalf?

As well as praying for those in our communities, Paul encourages us to pray for those in leadership and government over us, even if we disagree with them or they are against us. If we pray for peace and for wisdom for all of those in power, that they may come to know God and be transformed by him, how much could we see changed? Not just in our lives, or the lives of our communities but in our nations, our continents, and our whole world.

Jesus also taught us to pray for our enemies, for those who persecute us. This is a difficult thing to do but worth remembering in the light of Paul's advice to pray for 'all' people. God can help us to pray for those we find difficult. We can also use our spiritual gifts to help us to pray, for example if we find that we do not have the right words we could pray in tongues or we could prophesy scriptures over people and situations. Going out prayer walking in our communities can also be a powerful witness to those around us, and a demonstration of God's power in an area.

We want God to inhabit and bless all the places that we set our feet (Joshua 1:3, Deuteronomy 11:24) as well as all the people that we meet along the way. Life Groups, a form of church in the community are often started by people gathering to pray for their community.

### Put it into Action!

This month, you can organise people from different churches and the community to come together to pray or prayer walk for your community. If you are linked to people in many communities then why not organise a series of prayer meetings or walks.

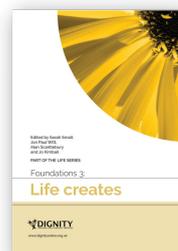
### Pray that:

- 1) God's people would unite to reach the community.
- 2) Pray that God's spirit would speak to every person in the community.
- 3) Pray that the needs of the community are met and people are transformed.



"Thanks to Dignity I am growing in the word of God. People have noticed how much I am growing. Last Sunday, I promised that I would come and pray with a man. He was having nightmares. Since we prayed they have stopped and he has been well."

**- John, Mwinilunga**



This lesson is taken from "Praying for your Community" a lesson found in Foundations Book 3 - Life Creates

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