

# DISCIPLINES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## 2. THE DISCIPLINE OF INTERCESSION

Take some time to catch up on each other's weeks. This may also be a good opportunity to check in with people who have asked for prayer in the past. How are those situations going?

Watch Pete's interview on prayer together. (You'll find it on the [website page](#), along with these notes). What things strike you? Can you identify with any of his experience? What encouraged or inspired you?

### Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Paul urged Timothy to pray with all kinds of prayer – prayer for ourselves (petition), prayer for others (intercession), and prayer for God (thanksgiving). And he said this was of first importance – the most powerful thing we can do.

- What has your experience been with prayer? Is it a regular practice in your life, or something you do more sporadically?
- What are some of the barriers or challenges you have had to practising prayer – particularly prayer for others?

Susanna said that prayer is like a voucher we need to use, where God gives us the power to ask for His will to be done in the world.

- What stops us from using the 'voucher' of prayer?
- In what situations can we pray bigger? Where are we praying small?

Paul encourages Timothy to pray the bigger prayer for everyone to come to know Jesus personally, to experience him for themselves. When we pray this we're aligning ourselves with God's deepest desire.

- What do you find challenging in praying for people to come to know Jesus?
- Who are you praying for to come to know Jesus? Share their names and situations and what you're seeing God do in their lives, if anything. If you don't have anyone specific then perhaps share who you could start praying for.

**BIG IDEA:** God is inviting us to pray a bigger prayer. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we can be bold and expectant with our prayers. When we pray bigger prayers, we will see the world changed.

Spend time praying together. Devote a good portion of the evening to it. Pray for those in the group experiencing barriers to practising prayer. Pray that all of us are encouraged and inspired to pray.

Pray in smaller groups, if necessary, for 2 or 3 friends who don't know Jesus. Pray that they come to a knowledge of the truth.

Pray some bigger prayers together as a group. Pray for situations in our city, our nation and the wider world.