

CITY LG – July 12 - 13, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Pray for Me (Pray for One Another / The Church Prays for Peter) • 1 Timothy 2:1
(Supporting: Acts 12:1-19)

Today's Bottom Line: Pray for one another.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.* Romans 15:5 (NIRV)

Monthly Virtue: Live It Out—Discover how to love like Jesus

Central Supplies: One bag of giant marshmallows per service

WORSHIP

Sing Wherever I Go

Free

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, my friends! Welcome to The City!] Let's kick off our time together with some high fives. Give a friend a high five like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Listen, I'm so glad you're here today because we're going to have lots of fun discovering how to live and love others like Jesus.

And did you know that when we live and love like Jesus, it can actually change the world? That's right! But we can't do it in our own strength. Check out what the apostle Paul wrote in the book of Romans.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Open the Bible to Romans 15:5 (NIRV) and read.

Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had. (Romans 15:5, NIRV)

We'll get into that a little later. First, we have a camp game to play! How many of you love a good hot marshmallow over the campfire? You know...when it is nice and ooey gooey and it is falling right off the stick? Delicious. How many of you love a good hot potato over the campfire? (*Confused by the lack of response*) Seriously? How about a GAME of hot potato? What if there were a way to combine these?

**Depending on the size of your group, this can be an all play with multiple groups or a stage game with one volunteer group.*

Let's get in groups and get this going!

SOUND: Fun music

Give each group one giant marshmallow and start the music. Every time the music stops, the person holding the marshmallow is out and sits in place. After a few rounds, introduce a second, third, fourth marshmallow into the game to make it more complicated and exciting. The more marshmallows you use, the more kids you can play with because several get out each round. If time allows, put the winners of all the groups against each other in an epic round.

I love that game...I just want s'more every time!

Alright everyone, let's jump into today's story. If we want to love like Jesus, we need to pray for one another. We can see the power of prayer in the book of Acts. The book of Acts tells the story of the early church and how it grew as new believers trusted Jesus and received the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' disciples, or apostles, began teaching about Jesus and healing others through His power. The religious leaders didn't like that one bit, so they were pleased when some of Jesus' followers were arrested and even killed. Let's check out The Story Lab!

VIDEO: Bible Story 12:30

In the morning, the guards couldn't figure out what had happened to Peter. As for Peter's friends, they got to see the power of their prayers being answered. Let's read these words that Paul wrote.

Open the Bible to 1 Timothy 2:1 (NIRV) and read.

First, I want you to pray for all people. Ask God to help and bless them. Give thanks for them. (NIRV)

Just like Peter's friends and all the early Jesus-followers, we are called to pray for each other at any time, anywhere, about anything. Stand up for today's bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Pray for one another.

SLIDE: Theme

Peter's friends were in the middle of actually praying for him when he showed up, and, at first, they didn't believe it was him. Sometimes we pray without actually expecting God to listen. It's easy to do.

We've been talking about what it looks like to live and love like Jesus. And we have so many stories of times that Jesus prayed, often for other people. Peter's friends lived this out, and Paul reminded us to do this too, by praying for everyone.

STORYTELLER: "You can pray for anyone who crosses your path or anyone God brings to mind. Prayer is simply talking with God. And when you thank God for someone or ask God to help them, you can trust that God hears you.

God might not answer your prayer exactly the way you expect, But God loves us and knows exactly how to help us. Like If you pray for a friend who is sick, God may simply give them peace and patience while they heal. God might even send someone to comfort them—like you! Any time you see someone in need, make a habit of taking a moment to pray for them. Ask God if YOU might be part of the answer to that prayer.

Praying for others is another way we 'Live it Out' as we discover how to love like Jesus. Let's pray.

Dear God, thank You so much for answering the prayers of the early church by helping Peter escape. Help us to know that we can always trust You to hear our prayers. And help us to pray for others. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

We started supporting a new organization with our offering this month. We are going to help kids and adults who live right near us! Our mission is Shady Oaks Camp for People with Disabilities in Homer Glen, IL. Their mission is to give kids and adults the same kind of camp experience that kids without disabilities can enjoy. And the cool thing is that there are people who go to church here at Parkview who attend this camp! Let's meet one right now.

VIDEO: Missions Night 2 (Runtime:)

Wow! You can see how much Shady Oaks Camp means to Richard and his mom Sallie, and LOTS of people who live around here! I'm so excited that we are raising money to help Shady Oaks provide summer camps for people with disabilities! Bring your money up if you brought it.