



PRAY WITHOUT DISPUTING

Be sure to observe and recognize any new members in your group. Make sure they are welcomed and introduce them to everyone. Welcome back! Let's kick off our first time together by catching up. It's been almost three months since we were all together, so a lot has likely happened in that time. Go around the room and tell us what you've been up to.

TALK ABOUT IT

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Paul begins by urging Christians to pray for “all people.” Who do you find especially easy—or difficult—to pray for?

How are prayer, peaceful living, and God's desire for people to be saved connected?

Verse 5 describes Jesus as the “one mediator between God and mankind.”

What does it mean that Jesus is our mediator and should that affect the way we treat people who disagree with us?

When Christians argue in a negative way that makes their faith less attractive, how does that poorly reflect on Jesus?

Paul tells men to pray “without anger or disputing.”

What usually causes a discussion to cross the line from honest disagreement into an unhealthy argument?

APPLY IT

Read verses 11-15

Christians interpret verses 11–15 differently. How can we study a difficult passage seriously, reach convictions, and still respect Christians who reach a different conclusion?

What is the difference between refusing to compromise truth and simply wanting to win an argument?

Complete this sentence: “Before I open my mouth—or open the comment box—I need to...”

PRAY

Ask God to help your group:

- remain committed to truth without becoming quarrelsome;
- live quiet, peaceful, godly lives;
- clothe yourselves with good deeds;
- use your words and conduct to help others see Jesus.