



For more resources see: www.bit.ly/WATYPCards

Where are the **young** people?



The question that many congregations are asking is: **“Where are the young people?”**
One answer takes the form of another question: **“Have you come alongside them in prayer?”**

Paul in his letters to Timothy, a young man he has mentored and commissioned into leadership, gives us an example of praying with and for young people. Paul prays for him constantly (2 Tim 1: 3). You are invited to pray with and for young people - ask young people connected to your church to write prayers or use ones written by URC Youth (www.bit.ly/praylikepaul).

Paul sees Timothy as a person of faith within an intergenerational community of faith (2 Tim 1:5) - pray specifically for all the young people you know personally or know about through your church - that they will find their place amidst deep relationships with Christians of all ages in the church.

Paul sees Timothy as someone who has learned from others and has things to teach others (1 Tim 4:16, 2 Tim 3:14-17, 2 Tim 4:2), including how to understand the Word in a new context. Pray that young people will be able to teach and lead the church, and to share the good news of Jesus with all.

Paul sees Timothy as having received a particular gift from God (1 Tim 4:14, 2 Tim 1:6) and encourages Timothy to find ways to exercise this gift (1 Tim 4:15), to ‘fan into flames’ his calling and passion to use this gift courageously (2 Tim 1:6-7). Pray that young people will be supported to discern their calling and empowered to play their part in the mission of God.

Paul also foresees that Timothy will need to fight some battles and deal with conflict (1 Tim 6:12, 2 Tim 2:23-25) - and may have to endure suffering (2 Tim 4:5) - but has God’s work to do in all seasons. Pray for God to sustain young people’s sense of justice and desire to take action.

*Loving God,
you promise to be with us when two or three gather together in your name;
hear us as we pray with young people for the church and the world.
Give us faith like Paul,
to pray to you for the young people of our church
that we may be a place and a people
where they are encouraged, empowered and equipped
to play their part in the mission of God.
Prepare us to hear you through them
and to be led by their example closer to you.
Meet us in our prayers, in Jesus’ name. Amen*

A blessing for young people:
***Let no one despise your youth,
but set the believers an example
in love, in faith, in how to live.
Fan into flames the gift of God
that is within you and
be strong in the grace that is in
Christ Jesus.***

(Based on 1 Tim 4:12, 2 Tim 1:6 & 2:1)



Where are the
young
people?



A joint project by
The United Reformed Church and Quakers
www.urc.org.uk www.quakers.org.uk

