

**Middle School**

**October 22, 2017**

## **Public Prayer**

George Clooney is the latest celebrity to take a knee for NFL players.

And he's doing it with a prayer.

The movie star recently published a very public prayer in *The Daily Beast*, an online news source. Clooney's prayer came after President Trump announced that athletes who refuse to stand for the national anthem should be punished.

Clooney's prayer addressed the racial tensions that underlie the debate over standing for the national anthem.

Clooney prayed for "young children like Tamir Rice" and "police . . . first responders . . . men and women of the armed services."

In the final lines of his prayer, Clooney wrote, "I pray that dissent will always be protected in this great country." He continued, "I pray for a more perfect union."

He concluded with the words "And when I pray, I kneel."

### **Discussion Questions**

- What was George Clooney trying to accomplish with this prayer? Is he asking God to do something specific? Why do you think Clooney published his prayer?
- Talk about the different kinds of prayer. Is the public prayer that George Clooney published different from a private one that you say by yourself?
- In the Old Testament, we learn about King Hezekiah's public prayer. Look at 2 Kings 20:1–11 and talk about how God answered the king's prayer.
- Look at the description of prayer in Hebrews 4:14–16. What promise do we have through Jesus?