

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
The Real Lord's Prayer
John 17:1-26 (page 753)

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Jesus prays for Himself (John 17:1-5)

- That the Father would glorify the Son (vs 1,5)

- That the Son would glorify the Father (v 1b-4)

Jesus prays for the disciples (John 17:6-19)

That the Father would:

- keep / protect them (vs 6-15)

- sanctify them (vs 16-19)

Jesus prays for the church (John 17:20-26)

That all believers would:

- be unified in Him (vs 20-23)

- share His glory (vs 24-26)

Growth Group Sermon Study Helps

John 17:1-26 (Week Twenty-nine)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

We are privileged in John 17 to enter into a most intimate and powerful moment of prayer between God's Son, Jesus Christ and His Father. As I mentioned on Sunday, it is truly a "*Holy of Holies*" moment in the Bible and presents for us the greatest prayer ever prayed in the Bible. Jesus prays for Himself (vs 1-5); then for the eleven disciples (vs 6-19); and then for the church that would be born through their proclamation of the gospel (vs 20-26). The depth and the implications of this intercessory prayer of Jesus are enormous and allow us to hear and see the heartbeat of Jesus for us, as well as, for the mission to which He has called us to be involved. As you read this chapter and hear the desires of His heart, how will you respond by your decisions and commitment to obey Him?

Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention, a particular point, or that you have a question about?

vs 1-2...What brings God glory? What is your view towards Jesus' authority over your life? What is the implication of rejecting His authority?

By what yardstick is my life measured? Is my "*success*" gauged by worldly standards or by biblical standards?

v 3...What are some wrong notions that people hold regarding eternal life compared to Jesus' definition? How does that affect how you pursue eternal life today? Discuss.

vs 6-19...Identify several things Jesus prayed for His disciples in this passage. Does that give me new confidence to follow Him? Why or why not?

vs 14-19...Jesus prays for the protection of the disciples - discuss the "*big idea*" at stake in this passage and the concepts: "*not of the world*", "*sanctify*" and "*sent into the world*".

What is the *means* of our sanctification in **v 17**? Why does Jesus identify that as the key to our sanctification?

What does it mean to be sanctified? How have you experienced the sanctifying work of God in your life?

Why is unity so important to Jesus in this prayer? Am I experiencing this unity with God? With the people of God - i.e. the church? If not, *what* may be the reason and *what* will I *do* about it?

What is stated as a major purpose for the *unity* of the church? (**v 20-23**) Why is unity such a challenge for us?

Taking it to the streets....

What is the mission of my life? Am I distracted by too many pursuits? If so, are they truly eternally significant? How can I cultivate this kind of clarity? Who can help me narrow my vision and pin down my personal mission statement?

How am I actively seeking to know God more intimately? (**v3**) What disciplines or characteristics give evidence to my pursuit of God? Am I more intimate with the Lord than I was last year at this time? *Why or why not? What steps will I take to move in that direction?*