

JOHN 17

A STUDY ON JESUS' HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER



Where We're Going

and what to expect.

Over the next five weeks, we will be slowly walking through Jesus' prayer in John 17. According to *GotQuestions.org*, "Jesus prays this (prayer) after He finishes His final instructions to the disciples and before He is betrayed, arrested, and crucified. First, Jesus prays for Himself, then He prays for His disciples, and He closes the prayer by praying for all believers. This intercessory prayer is commonly called Jesus' High Priestly Prayer."

During our time in the Sunday service and in our Life Groups, we are going to learn more about what Jesus is praying and how we can grow from knowing this prayer and partnering with Him.

It would be beneficial to use the Moody Bible Commentary for preparation and guidance during this series. You will be able to find guidance for this particular chapter of Scripture on pages 1653-1654.

The goal is not to know everything by the end of the series. Rather, it is to incrementally grow in our understanding and spiritual practices.

Here is our outline for the next five weeks.

Week 1: John 17:1-5

Week 2: John 17:6-12

Week 3: John 17:13-19

Week 4: John 17:20-23

Week 5: John 17:24-26

Week 1

John 17:1-5 {ESV}

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, **2** since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. **3** And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. **4** I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. **5** And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Head, Heart, Hands

CHANGING WHAT WE KNOW, WHO
WE WORSHIP, AND HOW WE SERVE.

HEAD:

In chapters 13-17 of John, Jesus has long private talks with His disciples as He is preparing to go to the cross. A simple breakdown of those chapters are Servanthood (*ch. 13*), Heaven (*ch. 14*), Abiding (*ch. 15*), Promises (*ch. 16*), and Prayer (*ch. 17*). It is with this in mind that we arrive at Jesus' High Priestly Prayer.

Read all of John 17 as your group begins. You might even consider reading the chapter with multiple translations.

Now we will focus our attention on verses 1-5.

Who or what is the focus of these first five verses?

What was Jesus' first request in this section?

Is this request self-seeking or arrogant? Why or why not?

How is eternal life defined in verse 3? How can you explain or paraphrase this for others who need help understanding what eternal life is?

How has Jesus glorified the Father while on earth?

What is your biggest takeaway from these first five verses?

HEART:

In what way(s) have you found yourself glorifying God because of the life of Jesus? Share one or two examples of how you have done that recently (within the last week or two)?

What things vie for your affections and worship?

Do you seek to remove those things from your life? If so, how do you seek to eradicate them? If you can't remove them, how do you ensure that you are worshiping and glorifying only God?

How does Jesus' example in His prayer inform, encourage, or convict you about the way that you pray?

What might you need to change about the way you are praying OR adjust the emphasis of your prayers?



HANDS:

As we continue through John 17, we will be able to see a total of five different themes in Christ's prayer. Today's theme has been "glorification". The immediate context for John 17:1-5 is that the Father would glorify the Son so that the Son would again glorify the Father. This is unique to their relationship, yet we know we can glorify God through our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

As we conclude today, what is one thing that you will seek to do this week that you hope and pray glorifies our God? Talk and share ideas, then commit to encouraging each other to follow through.

"At its heart, prayer is an invisible act of faith in an unseen God, and praying with others strengthens our own faith and silences our nagging doubts." – Megan Hill

CLOSING:

Spend time praying as a group. You might consider praying with the help of John 17:1-5, knowing that you are not the Savior, but you can ask that God is glorified through you as an individual and as a group.

Pray also for the prayer requests of the group and/or use the monthly prayer guides that are found at LegacyChurch.org/prayerinitiatives.