

JOHN 17

A STUDY ON JESUS' HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER



Where We're Going

and what to expect.

Over the course of 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

Week3

John 17:13-19 {ESV}

13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. **14** I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **15** I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. **19** And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Head, Heart, Hands

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

HEAD:

In today's verses, we see Jesus praying for the eleven remaining disciples. And yet, because of our common faith, the content of His prayer can be applied to modern Christians as well. As you and your group jump into these seven verses, consider not only what you know but also how you can apply these verses.

What does Jesus mean when He says "I am coming to you"? Why is that important to know as we defend, or even investigate, our faith?

When Jesus says "these things I speak in the world," what does He mean by these things? If you have time, as a group recount what Jesus has said.

What is joy? What does it mean to have joy fulfilled in you? When was the last time you experienced joy?

Why does the world hate disciples of Christ? In what way(s) are they hated? What experience do you have being hated for being a Christian?

What does it mean to not be of this world? How does one live in the world but not be of it? When has there been a time in your life where you have seen another Christian living as if they are of the world? (Did you help that brother or sister learn how they should live? Or did you allow them to continue in their ways? Is it our place to help other Christians?)

Why is it better for followers of Jesus to not be taken out of the world? In what ways have you personally benefited from Christians still being in the world?

What does it mean to be sanctified? What does this portion of Jesus' prayer indicate as being vital to our sanctification?

There is a progression of mission in this section. The Father sends the Son, then the Son sends His disciples (and we know from Scripture God sends the Holy Spirit). With this in mind, how and why is mission important to God? What does it mean to be sent? Who is meant to be sent?

HEART:

After reading this section of John 17, knowing that God's plan is for Christians to be sanctified, how



would you describe your experience of being sanctified? What have you enjoyed? What has been difficult? Why do you personally need sanctification?

What role has the Word of God played in your sanctification? How is it currently being used in your sanctification?

How has your view of mission changed over time? What do you desire people to understand about being sent to serve people with the gospel?

HANDS:

Who are you currently walking with (in addition to Life Group time) to help encourage one another to grow and mature in Christ?

Who are you "sent" to in order to minister and share the gospel? How has your experience been?

"Prayer is a special exercise of faith. Faith makes the prayer acceptable because it believes that either the prayer will be answered, or that something better will be given instead." – Martin Luther

CLOSING:

Spend time praying as a group. If there is anything from today's verses that particularly struck you, pray those words or that theme as well.