

# 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

### Week 4

#### John 17:20-23 {ESV}

**20** "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, **23** I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

# 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 disciples, not only for the eleven but for every Christian that comes to saving faith in Him. Jesus asks that His disciples would be unified.

What is unity? (The answer to this question is both theological and philosophical. Books have been written on the topic of Christian unity and it is a good and right theme to understand. With this in mind, encourage your group to discuss at length what it means to be unified.) What is the basis for biblical unity?

Where have you seen Christians unified in the last few years? What impact has it made on you to see Christians unified and living as one?

Where have you seen a disunity? Why is disunity detrimental to the glory of God and the sake of people?

What does Jesus mean when He prays that the disciples may be one just as He and the Father are one?

How is it that Christ's disciples live in such a way that people in the world would believe that the Father sent the Son into the world?

## HEART:

Where have you created disunity in the past? (This might be an uncomfortable question to answer but a goal of Life Groups is to be a small group of Christians that help each other live the life that God has called them to. In order to do that, transparency, vulnerability, and accountability are vital to growth and helping live as God desires.)

Where has God used you in the past to help create unity among other Christians? What was that situation like and how did that impact the people involved?



## HANDS:

Are you currently praying for unity for the global church? The American church? For Legacy Church? If so, why do you pray for that? If not, how might you begin to take a step toward praying for unity?

Is there a person in your life that is creating disunity among believers? This can be through complaining, judgment, apathy, or any numerous ways. Or maybe you have noticed yourself creating disunity. What might God be calling you to do in light of today's passage to help cultivate unity?

*"Physicians of souls [pastors, Life Group leaders, etc] are men [and women] of prayer, always praying and interceding for the souls under their care."*  
– Harold Senkbeil

## 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.