

2. Describe an experience you've had lately when it was clear to you that we, the church, are not 'One' as Jesus prays we would be 'One'. What steps can we take to foster greater unity amongst the church family here at South Shores? In what ways do we foster unity by worshipping together? How do we foster unity by serving together?

3. Jesus' prayer focuses on the love of the Father surrounding His people and making Him present to them and through them to the world. How can we more intentionally live as people through whom the world is invited into the love of the Father and the Son?

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Praise God that He and the Son are unified in purpose and that their intimacy and love is a model for how we are to love God and love each other. Thank Jesus that He has given us the glory that the Father had given Him. Ask God to give you love for all those in the Body of Christ, even those it is hard for you to love. Ask God for a unity in the Body of Christ that mirrors the unity present in the Triune God and is attractive to the world.

Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests. Ask someone in the group to record your prayers so that in future weeks you can see where God is answering your prayers.

BEFORE I GO
Jesus Prays For Us

God In Jesus To Save the World

John 17:20-23

- Unity is when Jesus is in US.

Jesus In Us To Show God's Love To The World

John 17:24-26

How Jesus can be 'In Us.'

- The way we treat EACH OTHER.
- The way we treat OTHERS.
- The way we treat HIM.
- Through His WORD.
- Say His name – "JESUS".
- Care enough to SHARE Him.
- Care enough to PRAY for others.

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of February 22-26, 2016

Getting StartedGroup time - 15 minutes

1. Describe something you've seen in the last week that made you say to yourself, "That's not right. That is not as it was intended to be by its creator." What was the clue that something was wrong? What would have to be done to make it right?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read John 17:20-26 (In preparation to answer questions)

1. In verse 20, Jesus is talking about "us." What specifically is on Jesus' mind when He prays for us and all His followers in this and every generation?
2. What is the purpose of unity within the Body of Christ? What is the binding power in the Triune God? Why is unity among believers, the Father, and the Son so crucial to those in the world coming to salvation?

3. Read John 13:35. Why did Jesus see unity as such a pressing need as the church grew in diversity, backgrounds, and interests? Jesus and the Father are distinct from each other and have different functions. How is unity different than uniformity? What implications do these differences have for our image of unity?
4. How do followers of Christ participate in the "glory" of Jesus? How does our united testimony confirm the ministry of Jesus and God's love for believers?
5. What does Jesus say about our intimately knowing both the Father and the Son? What can you do to come to know the Father more intimately? What can you do to know the Son more intimately?

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 20 minutes

1. How have Christians, both historically and today, failed to live out Jesus' prayer for unity? How have Christians succeeded in living out Jesus' prayer for unity? What are some specific ways we could show oneness with other Christians from whom we might currently be divided – either geographically, ethnically, economically or by practices? If it is true that the goal is not uniformity or conformity but unity in love, how does that impact our divisions?