

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

John 17

Opening

Gathering: What makes a prayer a good and God-pleasing prayer?

Today's Focus: Jesus revealed His deepest desire and plan of bringing us into His glory through the High Priestly Prayer He prayed after his last supper.

Key Verses: *Father, the time has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You.* John 17:1

Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. John 17:3

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Upsetting News (*John 13*)

What upsetting news did Jesus give His disciples during His last supper?

John 13:21

How did the news get worse?

John 13:37-38

How did the news get even worse?

Matthew 26:31

How did the news then turn horrible?

John 13:33

Five Reasons to Leave (*John 14*)

How did Jesus try to reassure His disciples that his leaving was a good thing?

John 14:1-3 (1-3)

Why was it important for Jesus to come back and take them there?

John 14:4-9 (4-11)

What would Jesus do for them while He was gone that required Him to leave?

John 14:13-14 (12-14)

How would Jesus keep them from being alone while He was gone?

John 14:16, 26 (15-26)

What else would the disciples need that Jesus would leave with them?

John 14:27 (27-31)

Instructions While He's Gone (*John 15*)

What were the disciples to do while Jesus was away?

John 15:1, 4, 8 (1-8)

What fruit is Jesus' branches to produce?

John 15:10-11 (9-17)

Should the branches expect to experience the fruit of love at all times while connected to the vine?

John 15:18-19 (18-27)

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The Spirit's Work (John 16:1-22)

What would the Spirit do for the world that hates the vine and its branches?

John 16:7-8 (1-11)

What would the Spirit do for the vine?

John 16:12-14 (12-15)

What would the Spirit do for the branches?

John 16:20-22 (16-22)

Understanding the Vine (John 16:28-33)

How well did the disciples understand what Jesus said in these chapters?

John 16:17-18

Was there anything they could understand?

John 16:28-29

Did they gain any great insights from what they understood?

John 16:30-31

What would this mean for the disciples when Jesus was gone?

John 16:33

Access to the Father (John 16:23-27)

How could the disciples have peace in this troubled world while Jesus was gone?

Hebrews 7:25

Does this mean that we have to go through the Son to talk with the Father?

Romans 8:26

So, our access to the Father is either through the Son or the Spirit, right?

Romans 8:27

How did Jesus explain to the disciples that they now have direct access to the Father?

John 16:23, 26-27

How had Jesus revealed this direct access to the Father early in His ministry?

Matthew 6:9-13

Note: Prayer is incorrectly called the Lord's Prayer because Jesus couldn't pray it

The Lord's Prayer (John 17:1)

If the Lord's Prayer isn't really the Lord's Prayer, then what could be called the Lord's Prayer?

John 17:1a

Longest prayer of Jesus recorded in the Bible

We get to listen in on a private conversation between God the Son and God the Father

Wiersbe, 1992 - *You could spend many weeks meditating on the truths in this chapter.*

Milligan & Moulton, 1898 - *No attempt to describe the prayer can give a just idea of its sublimity, its pathos, its touching yet exalted character, its tone at once of tenderness and triumphant expectation.*

Why is this often called Jesus' High Priestly Prayer?

Hebrews 5:1, 7-10

Three Focuses of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer:

17:1-5

Jesus Prays for Himself

17:6-19

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

17:20-26

Jesus Prays for All Believers

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Jesus Prays for Himself (*John 17:1*)

What did Jesus ask the Father to do for Him?

John 17:1

What did it mean that the time had come for Jesus to be glorified?

Hebrews 2:9

Why was it important that Jesus had been *made a little lower than the angels* as a man?

Hebrews 2:14-17

Jesus' Glory (*John 17:2-5*)

Besides obedience to fulfill the Father's plan, how would glorifying the Son lead to glorifying the Father?

John 10:30 (12:44-45; 14:9-11)

Why was Jesus' obedience to the Father's plan through death His greatest glory?

John 17:2-3

Was this glory a reward to the Son for completing the work?

John 17:4-5

Jesus Prays for His Disciples - Glorify (*John 17:6-10*)

What had Jesus done for His disciples during His earthly ministry?

John 17:6-8

Was Jesus praying specifically for His disciples or for all people?

John 17:9-10

Jesus Prays for His Disciples - Unify (*John 17:11-15*)

What was Jesus' concern for His disciples?

John 17:11

Why was Jesus saying this prayer aloud for the disciples to hear and remember?

John 17:12-13

What protection would they need?

John 17:14-15

Jesus Prays for His Disciples - Sanctify (*John 17:16-19*)

Besides protection, what did Jesus ask for His disciples?

John 17:16-17

What sacred use would Jesus have for His disciples?

John 17:18-19

How did Jesus clarify this purpose right before He ascended?

Matthew 28:18-20

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Jesus Prays for All Believers (*John 17:20-21*)

Was Jesus praying just for His 11 apostles?

John 17:20

What was His concern for those who would become disciples throughout this diverse world?

John 17:21

Did this unity mean that there are to be no differences between believers?

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 18-20

Our Example of Diverse Unity (*John 17:22-23*)

What example do we have of how this diverse unity is to work?

John 17:22

Why is this unity important?

John 17:23

Jesus' Ultimate Desire for All Believers (*John 17:24-26*)

What is Jesus' ultimate desire for all believers?

John 17:24

What is Jesus' role in making this happen?

John 17:25-26

Jesus Keeps Praying (*John 18:1*)

What did Jesus do after completing this great prayer?

John 18:1

Why did Jesus go into this garden?

Luke 22:39-42

What should we learn from the fact that the Son of God felt it so important to pray often with the Father?

Philippians 4:6-7

Was this just Paul's suggestion or did Jesus agree that we should always pray?

Luke 18:1

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. In what ways do I bring glory to God?
(*John 17:6-10; Isaiah 43:6-7; Romans 1:21-23; 1 Cor. 10:31; Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:10-11*)
2. how well do I know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent?
(*John 17:3; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Hosea 6:6; Philippians 3:7-11; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:20*)
3. What do I do that shows that I am sanctified – set apart for God's sacred use?
(*John 17:16-19; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 1:8; 6:15-23; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Colossians 1:10-12*)
4. When have others come to believe through my message?
(*John 17:20; 1:41, 45; 4:39-42; 20:30-31; 21:24-25; Acts 26:15-18; 2 Timothy 4:5*)
5. How have I upheld the unity of Christ's body?
(*John 17:20-23; Romans 15:5-6; 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 1:10; 11:17-19; 12:12-31; Ephesians 4:1-16*)