

Sermon Based Small Groups Study Questions

The Prayer of the King

John 17:1-26

Start It: Connecting with each other

1. Describe a time in your life when you have experienced a special and profound understanding of God's love for you.
2. Have you ever prayed for someone or has someone prayed for you, knowing it was the last time you would see them?

Study It: Connecting with God's Word

1. [v. 1,3,6] What is eternal life and how does it differ from a simple definition of living forever? Who receives eternal life?
2. [vv 4-5] What one request does Jesus make for himself? What does it mean here that Jesus is "glorified"? What does it mean for Jesus to glorify the Father?
3. [v. 8] What three things are mentioned about the disciples in this verse?
4. [v. 9,14,21,23] Who is the "world?" Here Jesus does not pray for the world but later he does. What does he pray for? (vv. 21,23)
5. [v. 11,17] What does the address "Holy Father" or "Righteous Father" mean to you? Note that it is only used here in Scripture (cf. Revelation 4:8; 1 Peter 1:16)
6. [v. 22] To what degree should Christians be unified? What does Jesus compare our unity to?
7. [v. 23] What will the world of non-believers accept as 'proof' that the Father sent his Son Jesus to redeem the world?

Live It: Apply the Truth of Scripture

1. This prayer recorded in Chapter 17 was Jesus final words to his twelve disciples. His first concern is that God would be glorified through his death. How does your own prayer and life bring glory to the Father?
2. How do you remain in the world yet not get confused with the world?
3. What does being 'set apart' for Christ and his work mean to you? How is one sanctified (v. 17)? How can God's word sanctify your life?
4. For Jesus, unity in the Church was of the utmost importance. How does the disunity within the Christian church (Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant with its hundreds of denominations) effect you? Do you pray and work for unity? Do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ who are not from your background? Have you thought about the evangelistic aspect of Christian unity?