

John 17

“What Jesus Prays For Us.”^a

^a Every Sunday in September.

WHAT JESUS PRAYS FOR US

Week Two

GOALS

- To gain a deeper understanding of Jesus and what's important to him.
- To allow these truths to shape our behaviors'.
- To grow in the unity that God calls us to as a small group.

TIPS

- This series is about Jesus, prayer and unity.
- It is a great discipleship opportunity to point people towards observing the behavior of Jesus (as we study the scripture) and then apply it to our lives (as we discuss how we can model our behaviors on what we see Jesus doing).
- Try and ensure you leave enough time for prayer in these evenings. It is an important focus of the studies and therefore having time to pray in the evening is appropriate and may be very fruitful for your small group.

HEADLINES

This week's study looks at what Jesus prays for his disciples (then and now): for protection, unity and joy. These truths may be quite different to what your small group members (and you) are experiencing at the moment. The aim of this evening is to remind ourselves about these truths and be encouraged by them, and to have some time to pray for each other.

As a small group leader, spend some time praying for this evening and the people you lead, like Jesus is praying for you and them.

Group leader tip: read John 17 in its entirety with the group first, and then focus on this week's passage.

PRAYER

Ask someone to open in prayer. Maybe ask them beforehand and prime them to pray for wisdom and openness to God's truth being revealed in the evening, as well as open hearts to apply God's truth to our lives.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Read together from John 17:6 – 13

1. Break into groups of 2 and share what you feel the Holy Spirit may be highlighting to you from this text.
2. Based on this text, how would you describe Jesus' attitudes and feelings towards his disciples? How does this compare to what you've experienced in the last while as someone following Jesus? (Or if you have non-believers in your group, how does this compare to what you thought of Jesus?)
3. Read the verses again, looking at what Jesus is trying to show his disciples (and us) about 'the world'. Why do you think this is so important?

4. Jesus reveals his motive in verses 12 and 13, where he prays for 'safety and protection', and then 'fullness of joy'. How does it make you react to know Jesus is praying for those things for us?

5. What do you think Jesus is praying about for you currently?

PRAY

Spend some time thanking Jesus for his investment in our protection and joy. Pray for members of the group who may be struggling to feel these things in light of life circumstances at the moment.

After you finish praying, maybe commission everyone to continue praying for the person sitting on their right for the next week until you meet again.