

John 17

“What Jesus Prays For Us.”<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Every Sunday in September.

## WHAT JESUS PRAYS FOR US

*Week Three*

### 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 study looks at what Jesus says about the 'world' and how we are to live in it, but be set apart from it. This is a good summary on the truth that, as Christ-followers, we are being sanctified (being set apart for God) - but living missional lives (not living apart from the world) and having clear expectations of what this will mean (the world hating God's disciples, we can expect hardships). Jesus prays for the protection of his people given these truths. Hopefully as the group opens this part of scripture they see both their calling and responsibility as Christ-followers, but also dependency on God for their protection and joy.

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.

## PRAYER

Small group leader: father God, thank you that we get to meet together and learn more about you. Thank you for the truths we have been learning - that you continue to pray for us. Help us to see more of what this means for us, and how we live our lives for your glory this evening. Let our conversations bring you glory and us unity. Amen.

## QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Read John 17:14-19 together at least once.

1. What stands out for you from this passage?
2. Jesus says three things about 'the world': that it hates the disciples, that the disciples are not of the world, and that Jesus has sent them into the world. What do you make of that? What is Jesus saying here?
3. What do you understand by sanctification? (Hint: Greek word *hagiazō* – to be set apart for a sacred use.)

4. What does this passage suggest about how we are sanctified? (Mention these 3 things if not brought up: God sanctifies. Through his word. Through living out these truths in the world on God's mission.) What does this suggest about our part (if any) in our sanctification?
5. Do you feel like you have been sent into the world on a mission by God, in the same way Jesus was? Why or why not?
6. What is one take-home truth from this evening that you feel you would like to implement immediately?

### **PRAY**

Spend some time praying about the answers to 5 and 6. Pray for increasing belief in God's call over us and what that means for our spheres of life.