

John 17

“What Jesus Prays For Us.”^a

^a Every Sunday in September.

WHAT JESUS PRAYS FOR US

Week Four

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 God prays for in the world: for the people who will come to know God through us. Hopefully, it will bring greater insights into the fact that all disciples are missional, and what that means for both how we live and how we pray.

Before small group: ask your small group (in your reminder text about small group) to pay attention to what news they see about the world and Cape Town in the days leading up to small group.

PRAYER

Maybe ask someone to open in prayer. Ask them beforehand and prime them to ask for God's heart and vision for the world to become more known in the group during the evening and for open hearts to apply God's truth to our lives.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

1. Do you think Jesus is praying for you now? If so, what prayers do you think he might be praying?
2. What news headlines have your group seen over the past few days? It doesn't take much of a Facebook/Twitter scan at what is trending in the world to see what God is seeing in his world, or how far we are deviating from his will. What do you think God is praying for in these situations?
3. How does that reality shape what we think we should be praying for, and how we should be responding to the world around us?

Read John 17: 20-26 together at least once...

4. What stands out to you from this passage?
5. What do you think it means to be one with God and Jesus? How does this compare to your experience in the last while?

6. What can we do to seek the kind of unity Jesus prays for?

PRAY

Spend some time praying for the various topics that have come up this evening. Particularly those around the group's individual situations and Cape Town specific situations that we think Jesus is praying for.

Pray that we would continue to look at our lives, the lives of those around us, and the world with eyes that see like Jesus does - and that we would align our prayers accordingly.