

## JESUS PRAYS FOR US (vv. 20-26)

*VERSES 20-26 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,<sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.<sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—<sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

*<sup>24</sup> “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

*<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.<sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”*

1. What does Jesus pray for in these verses?
2. What are some things Jesus has done in order to bring us into complete unity?
3. What is the purpose of our unity?
4. What is the foundation of our unity?
5. How would you describe “the glory” Jesus has given to us?
6. How does Jesus continue to make the Father know to us?

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## 360 DISCUSSION GUIDE



Few things are more encouraging than to hear the words, “I am praying for you.”

How much more encouraging to know, in the moments before the cross, our Lord prayed for us. I am reasonably sure, in his humanity, Jesus did not recall our faces or mention us by name. But I am equally certain that our Heavenly Father, in his omniscience, as he received our Lord’s prayer, looked down through the corridors of time, saw our faces, called us by name, and powerfully applied the benefits of Jesus’ prayer to us.

Jesus not only prayed for us in the upper room, he continues to pray for us. The writer of Hebrew tells us, “Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them (Hebrews 7:25).”

Jesus’ prayer in John 17 is a magnificent rehearsal of everything that our Lord has done for us, and more importantly everything he desires of us. Nothing should motivate our prayer more than calling to mind the grace we have received from God, and pursuing the very things he prayed would be true of us.

Jesus’ prayer comes to us in three simple movements, “He prays that the Father would glorify him so that he might bring glory to the Father, that the Father would protect his disciples as they are sent into the world to represent him, and that all of us would reflect the unity that existed between the Father and the Son throughout eternity.

## JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF (vv. 1-5)

*VERSES 1-5 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

1. While the Father has given Jesus authority over all people, how does he wield the authority granted to him by the Father?
2. How does Jesus' description of eternal life impact our understanding of eternal life?
3. What was the work the Father had given Jesus to do?
4. How had Jesus completed the Father's work up to this point in his ministry?
5. How would Jesus complete the Father's work in the hours after praying this prayer?
6. How can we know that we have been faithful in doing the work the Father has given us to do?

## JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES (vv. 6-19)

*VERSES 6-19: "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.*

*<sup>13</sup> "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.*

1. What is the primary thing Jesus prays for in these verses?
2. How have the Father and the Son worked together in order to enable us to come to the Father through the Son?
3. According to these verses, how did the disciples respond to the work of the Father and the Son?
4. How do these verses describe the disciples relationship to the world?
5. How do you balance, "Not being of the world," "remaining in the world," and being "sent to the world?"
6. What are some of the critical mistakes we make in our relationship to the world?
7. In verse 17, Jesus prays that his disciples would be sanctified by truth. What do you think Jesus has in mind when he prays for our sanctification?
  - a. How does God's word impact our sanctification?
  - b. How does Christ's own sanctification impact our sanctification?