

Lesson 2

Jesus' Last Moments Alone with His Disciples

John 17

Begin today's lesson asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and to teach you His precepts.

1. What concept from last week's lesson was especially helpful or thought provoking to you?

"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."

Read John 17 out loud every day this week.

John 16:7

2. As you read John 17, what initially strikes you?
3. What "hour" was Jesus referring to in John 17:1? See also John 12:27.
4. After Judas was dismissed from the Lord's Supper, Jesus had a private moment of deep sharing with the eleven remaining disciples. Scan John 13:31-John 16, and note the instances where Jesus told the disciples about His departure and their responses. Discuss.
5. From John 13:31-32, how did Jesus summarize the "hour" to which He has come? Discuss His choice of words.

6. On this last night of the earthly life of Jesus, what was the new commandment He gives His disciples in John 13:34-35, John 15:12-13 and John 15:17? Discuss.

7. What did Jesus promise in John 14:1-3? What does this promise mean to you?

8. In John 14:4-7 Jesus gave a remarkable truth to Thomas. Discuss His words in the light of the pervasive thought that there are many ways to the Father and that Jesus is simply one option.

9. Consider the promise of Jesus in John 14:12-14. What do you think Jesus meant by this?

10. All of the promises that Jesus gave His disciples on the last night of His earthly life are dependent upon the promise of the Holy Spirit. What do you learn about this promised Holy Spirit in the following verses?
 - ❖ John 14:16-18

 - ❖ John 14:25-26

 - ❖ John 15:26-27

 - ❖ John 16:7-15

11. What wonderful promise did Jesus make in John 14:20-21? Have you ever experienced what He was talking about?

12. From John 14:27 and John 16:33, compare the peace that the world gives with the peace the Lord leaves with us.

13. Consider the analogy of the vine and the branch that Jesus presented in John 15:1-10. What do you think is the key word and how do you think this happens?

14. From John 15:11, why did Jesus teach this? Consider and discuss.

15. How did He sum up this teaching in John 15:14-16?

16. Discuss what else Jesus promised His followers in John 15:18-25 and John 16:2-3.

17. Why did He tell them this in advance? See John 16:1 and 16:4.

As the time of deep sharing with His disciples came to a close, Jesus turned to His heavenly Father in prayer. John 17 is often called Jesus' High Priestly prayer. As Jesus prayed He was just a few hours from the cross.

18. From Hebrews 12:2, how did Jesus approach the horror of the cross?

19. How did He express this attitude in John 17:1-5?

20. According to Jesus in John 17:3, what is the essence of eternal life? Discuss.

21. In John 17:1-5, Jesus prayed for Himself. What does His model teach you?

22. In John 17:6-19 He prayed for His disciples. From John 17:9, who was He not praying for?

23. In John 17:11-19 Jesus made four specific requests and stated one thing He was not requesting. What are the four requests?

24. Discuss the one thing Jesus said He was not requesting and how this might apply to your life?

25. In John 17:20-26 Jesus prayed for all believers who would come to Him in the future. How did He express this in John 17:20?

26. What did He request for all believers in John 17:20 – 23, and what will be the result of this? Are we there yet? Discuss.

27. What did He ask for all believers in John 17:24?

28. Moses asked for this very thing in Exodus 33:18-34:8 and Exodus 34:29-35. Discuss what happens in these passages.

29. What was the final request of Jesus for all believers in John 17:26? Put this in your own words and discuss.

30. Based on your study this week, what do you think God is teaching you or inviting you to do or be?

Lecture Notes: