

## LifeGroup Discussion Questions

Based on: John 17:6-19

January 19, 2020

### **Overview:**

Jesus spends the majority of John 17 praying for His disciples. He was on the cusp of starting the journey to the cross. This will be the portion of the journey where Jesus' disciples would not follow Him. I have heard it described as a man getting ready to go on a long journey. Before he leaves he prays not only for himself, but also for the family he is leaving behind. This is what Jesus is doing in John 17.

There are a few specific things that Jesus prays for His disciples. In John 17:11, 15, He prays for their protection. Jesus doesn't pray that they be removed from the world, but that they should have protection while living in the world. Sometimes I think Christians think they are becoming holier the further they remove themselves from the world. Separation does not equal Holiness. Jesus understood that His disciples needed to make an impact in the world and this would come with dangers. The answer is not to remove them, but to protect them as they faced evil.

Jesus also prayed for them to be sanctified. Even walking side by side with Jesus for three years did not complete the sanctification process for the disciples. They still could grow closer to God and deal with the sin in their lives. This is another misnomer in Christianity. Some believe that if they have been a Christian for a long time then they have arrived. As long as we are still on this side of heaven all of us are still being sanctified. To believe anything less is to belittle the cross. Only when we meet Jesus in heaven will our sanctification process be complete and we will be glorified.

### **Bible Study** John 17:6-19

1. What do your prayers consist of for those close to you?
2. The only thing faster than light is darkness fleeing. Why does it diminish a Christian witness to separate themselves from the world?
3. In what ways have you grown in Christ since believing?
4. Why do you think Jesus takes time toward the end of His life to pray for His disciples?

5. Read over John 17:6-19 and write down phrases you can pray for those around you.
6. Who do you have in your life that is helping you on your sanctification process?