Title: Purpose & Protection
Big Idea: Jesus prays for protection because He sends us with purpose to spiritually dangerous places.

[14] I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. [15] I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. [16] They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. [17] Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 I sanctify myself for them, so that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

The world is the way of living that is not submitted to God.

1. God's word protects us.

2. Our God-given identity focuses us.

[20] "I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. [21] May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. [22] I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. [23] I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.

3. God's glory & love unifies us.

[24] "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they will see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the world's foundation. [25] Righteous Father, the world has not known you. However, I have known you, and they have known that you sent me. [26] I made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love you have loved me with may be in them and I may be in them."

<u>Discussion Questions:</u>

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time, but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?

2. Do you try to have a balance between being "in the world but not of the world" in your own life? If so, how?

3. Do you think the "way of the world" still has a strong influence on very many believers? Why might that be?

4. How does remembering that God's word is a weapon influence your view of reading or studying it?

5. Would your life look different if every day you remembered your identity as someone sent by God to bring His kingdom to the world?

6. What are practical ways we can reveal God's glory and love for people in our lives?