

John 17:20-26 English Standard Version (ESV)

20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, **23** I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. **24** Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. **25** O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. **26** I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

Discussion/Journal Questions

Read all of John 17. What is going on in Jesus’ life as He prays this prayer?

If you were on death-row the day before your execution, for what or for whom would you pray? What would be foremost on your mind and heart in that moment?

What is foremost on Jesus’ mind and heart in John 17?

In John 17:21, what three things does Jesus pray for those who believe through the disciples’ word?

What is the model for the kind of unity Jesus is praying for? What does this unity look like?

What impact does a united church have on the world around it? What impact does a divided church have?

Why is it important that our identity be rooted in Christ and not in anything else? What happens when we let politics or anything else become our identity?

What does it look like to build bridges to connect with people who are different from you? How would this change the way you react to others?

How can you engage in service or invest in the mission of Jesus this week? What can your group do to serve together?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?