WARM-UP QUESTION

Think of a time when you felt deeply loved and cared for. How did that impact you?

DISCUSS

• Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read <u>John 17:1-5</u>

- In verse 1, Jesus says that "the hour" has come. What is He referring to? What is Jesus preparing them for in this moment?
- Jesus says that knowing Him and God is the way to have eternal life. What does Jesus mean by eternal life? What does this mean for us as Jesus' followers? How is this different from a worldly perspective?
- Jesus is talking in the third person in verses 1-3. Why do you think He talks this way? What do you notice about the differences in His speech in verses 4-5? Why do you think He switched how He was speaking?
- Jesus is praying for Himself in these verses. Knowing that, does it change how you
 approach praying to God for yourself? What would it look like for you to be more
 intentional in praying for yourself to God?

Read John 17:6-19

- What repetition do you see in these verses? What is significant about it?
- Where do you see aspects of God's character through how Jesus prays for His disciples?
- Where do you see Jesus praying for protection over His disciples? How does this change how you view what it means to live in this world as one of Jesus' disciples?
- Read verse 17-19 again. How does what you know about the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, change the way you read John 17:17-19? Read John 15:26-27 if you need a place to start!
- Jesus references God's word, the Bible, in verse 17. What is your relationship with the Bible? How often do you spend time getting to know God through His word? What keeps you from reading the Bible more often?

Read John 17:20-26

- Jesus is praying for us, His believers. Why is this significant? What does Jesus' words tell
 you about how much He cares for you? What should our response be to Jesus' love for
 us?
- In verse 21, Jesus prays for unity within believers. What does unity among believers look like? How is unity difficult for you? In what areas of your life do you create disunity?



- How does love lead to unity? If you loved other Christians the way Jesus calls us to here, what would look different about your relationships? How might that change the way nonbelievers view the Church? How they view Jesus?
- Jesus says God loves us as much as He loves Jesus. What does that tell you about the type of relationship that God wants to have with you? How does that change the way you view Him? Where else in Scripture are we reminded of God's great love for us?

RESPOND

- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? When will you do it?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is, and ask Him to help you apply what He's prompting you to do this week.