



We were made for more in our relationship than what we often settle for. God created and wired us to have deep, meaningful relationships with others that grow us as followers of Jesus. We were made to live in biblical community and build relationships that build disciples.

WEEK FOUR

Made for More Community: One with His Mission

Passage: John 17:15-18

OPENING DISCUSSION

Where do you spend most of your time each week (work, school, home, activities)?

When you think about those places, do you see them more as routine or mission?

TEACHING AND VIDEO NOTES

CONTEXT REMINDER: Jesus is hours from the cross. What does He do? He prays. He prays for himself. He prays for the disciples to know God and for future believers to be united as one. Now, He prays for believers to be one with His mission in the world.

JOHN 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one

Jesus doesn't pray for removal. He prays for protection.

"World" (Greek: *kosmos*)

- The sin-broken system that is opposed to God.
- Gospel: We live in a world that was broken by sin.

"Evil One"

- Satan: enemy of God and the church (steal, kill, and destroy)
- We live in a broken world in the midst of spiritual battles.

Jesus knows the disciples are entering a hostile world and that they will face attacks from two "formidable foes": the world and the devil. Because they have been redeemed from the world and yet still live within it, they are out of step with it and will be persecuted for it.

GET THIS: God's plan is not escape from culture, but endurance within it. His plan is for us to have an impact despite the brokenness of the world.

JOHN 17:16-17 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Our reality has changed. Once we were both in the world and apart of the world. Before Jesus, we were contributors to and consumers of the brokenness of the world. But in Christ, things have changed.

We now live in the world, but we aren't of the world. That's why Jesus prays that we would be sanctified - changed by the truth.

"Sanctify" (Greek: *hagiazō*)

- to set apart, make holy, prepare for God's purpose

As we grow in our knowledge and application of God's word, He cleans up our lives so that we look and think less and less like the world. He sets us apart from the world and prepares us for ministry to the world.

GAME CHANGER: If you want to be a difference maker in the broken world, it starts with your commitment to know and live the Word of God. God will transform your life through His Word by the power of the Holy Spirit. You won't drift into holiness so commit yourself wholly to the Word of God.

We need to be strengthened and changed by God's Word. Set apart for His work because Jesus doesn't just protect us in the world. He sends us into the world.

JOHN 17:18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

This is when Jesus' mission becomes our mission. We have been both saved by grace and sent to share God's grace.

Over the years, I've had people ask why Jesus doesn't just take us to heaven the moment that we believe. Why doesn't God just "remove us" from this broken world?

He doesn't remove us because we have work to do. He doesn't remove us because the broken world needs us.

- Live and Share the Gospel - Together
- See Needs and Meet Needs in the Name of Jesus - Together

Can you imagine the difference this group could make together? Pray for our lost friends. Serve the community to share the Gospel. Encourage one another to live as everyday missionaries.

This is what Jesus is praying for. He is praying that His people would be one with each other and one with His mission to reach the world.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read: John 17:15-18

1. Vs 15. Jesus' prayer was not that we would be taken out of the world. Quite the opposite. His prayer was that God the Father would protect us from the evil one (satan) while we are in the world. What then does it look like to be "in the world but not of the world"?
2. Vs 17. Jesus prayed that we, the church, would be sanctified by the truth of God's word. Meaning that we would be set apart and made holy by the truth of Scripture.
3. Where is it tempting to blend in with the world instead of living set apart?

Leader Note: A follow-up question that can be used is "What could you change to stand out when you are tempted to blend in?"

4. Joining in Jesus' mission was one of Jesus three main prayers in John 17. Jesus in no way viewed joining in the mission of the Gospel going out into the world as a bonus. Why is it a critical non-negotiable to our relationship with Christ that we accept the invitation to take part in the mission that Jesus gave us?

5. Where has God uniquely placed you to make an impact?

Leader Note: One way to help people answer this question is to simply ask the question: Who knows you but does not know Christ? The coworkers, family, and friends that come to mind as you answer that question help us see how God has uniquely placed us to make an impact.

6. What fears or obstacles keep you from living on mission as Jesus prayed that we would in tonight's passage?

7. What would it look like for our group to live on mission together?

Leader Note: Everyone in your group needs to know that it is not only okay but a great idea to bring their lost friends to this small group. Also, this small group can and should be the place where we regularly encourage one another to live out our faith with boldness (heb 10:24).

PRAYER TIME

Tonight would be a great night to pray for the empty seat. What I mean by this is praying for the person who has not yet come to the group but some day soon will.

DISMISS