

**Parting Words**  
**A Foxhole Prayer**  
John 17:1-5  
Small Group Discussion

**Intro Questions** (try to get everyone involved in discussion):

- How are you doing in the midst of the coronavirus crisis? What has been the most challenging aspect of this situation so far for you?
- What is a “foxhole prayer?” Have you ever prayed one?
- In today’s passage, we begin to look at the prayer Jesus prayed with his disciples just before his arrest and crucifixion.

**Pray:** Invite the Holy Spirit to be present and to guide your discussion of God’s word.

**Read** John 17:1-5, then discuss the following.

- What initially stands out to you about this portion of Jesus’ prayer?
- What does Jesus mean when he says, “The hour has come?”
- What do you think of Jesus’ request to be glorified?
- Refresh your memory about what the terms “glory” and “glorify” mean:
  - Glory can mean beauty, or radiance, as in the “glory of the sunset left me speechless.”
  - Glory can mean the distinguishing aspect of something, as in “the glory of New York is its food.”
  - To glorify, then, means to put the full beauty of something, its distinguishing quality, on full display.
  - It is important also to remember that when Jesus’ being glorified is spoken of in John, it is always speaking of his death.
- You might describe Jesus’ request this way: **his heart’s desire is for you to see his heart.**
  - What does this prayer, and the event to which it points, show us about the heart of Jesus?
  - Specifically what does it show about his disposition towards us?
  - Note that Jesus also prays for his Father’s glory to be seen in him at the cross. What does this show us about God the Father?
  - Thinking of your daily life, and the way you typically think of God—what do you feel that the disposition of Jesus or the Father is toward you?
  - Have you ever kept God at arm’s length because you perceive him to be hostile toward you?
  - Why does it matter so much what we think God’s disposition is towards us?
- For what purpose do you normally think of “authority” being given? In other words, if people have authority, what is the purpose of that authority? (Examples: law enforcement, governing officials, teachers, leaders, etc.).
- What is unique about the purpose of Jesus’ authority, according to his words in v. 2?

- On Sunday, Josh spent some time unpacking the Greek words in v. 2 and 3 that are translated “eternal life.” Spend some time discussing those.
  - *Eternal*. What does the word connote for you? What does it mean for something to be eternal?
    - In 1<sup>st</sup>-century Greek, the word spoke of the quality of life that will be true in the age to come. It speaks more of quality of life than duration of life, though duration is included.
  - *Life*. The word speaks of life with a zest; full, meaningful living; real life, as it was meant to be.
- What do you notice about how Jesus defines “eternal life” in v. 3? How does his definition differ from yours?
- If **Jesus gave up his life for you to have real life, starting now**, then how can you begin to tap into that quality of life?
  - Specifically, in light of the current coronavirus crisis, what does it look like to live the quality of life that will be true of the future age, in the present? How does it change the way we face this crisis?
- What do you think Jesus is asking in v. 5, which may be distinct from his request in v. 1? What does it show you about what he gave up?
- How could this present moment in our history help us dig in even more to the “eternal life” Jesus speaks of here?
  - How could this time afford us opportunities to extend that life to others in our community?

**PRAYER:**

- If you haven’t already shared about other particular needs in your life, be sure to do that, and pray for one another.
- Pray that God will show us people in our community who need a special touch from him this week, and that God will show us how to extend his love to them.