

**PLEASE DON'T READ THESE NOTES UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR LESSON.
HEARING GOD FOR YOURSELF IS WAY BETTER THAN MY COMMENTS!**

questions

1. Read **Luke 5:16, 6:12, 9:18, 28**. While on earth, why do you think Jesus spent time praying? Jesus needed to pray for the same reason we need to pray. He prayed to be in close relationship to his Father; he prayed for guidance and wisdom; he prayed for those he loved and who were close to him; he prayed for his ministry and he no doubt spent time in prayer worshipping and praising his Father in heaven.

♥ What does the prayer life of Jesus teach you about the importance of prayer?

If Jesus (who was sinless) needed to pray – we certainly do!

♥ When do you usually turn to God in prayer? About what things do you usually pray?

Read **John 17:1-8**.

2. **For whom** is Jesus praying in **17:1-8** and **what** are his specific requests?

Jesus prays for himself – asking the Father to give him glory, the glory he and the Father shared in heaven before the world began. He announces that his time to die has come and that he has completed the work the Father gave him to do on earth by revealing God the Father and his words to his disciples.

Jesus addresses this prayer to *Father*, just as he did all his prayers. In the original language, the word *Father* is *Abba* which means *Daddy, Papa, or my own dear Father*. In Jesus' day, *Abba* was the word a small child would use to address the male parent. Because it was such a familiar and intimate expression, it was not considered an appropriate term of address for *Almighty God* by Jesus' contemporaries. Yet, this is how Jesus taught his disciples (and us) to pray and approach our Heavenly Father. Calling God the Father *Daddy or Papa* reflects the intimate relationship God desires to have with each of his children who have been reconciled to him through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

3. In **17:1**, Jesus says that the time for his death has finally come. How is the crucifixion going to *glorify* (*exalt, honor, extol, praise*) Jesus so that he can *glorify* the Father (**John 12:23-24**)?

Jesus will bring glory to God by taking on himself all the sin of the world and dying to pay the penalty for that sin. By dying, Jesus will make the way for reconciliation between sinful humans and God. He will bring many back into fellowship with the Father.

♥ What are some specific ways you can *glorify* God? Is this important? What would be the result?

♥ Who have you glorified by the way you have lived this week? How so?

We can live to give glory to God, or ourselves, or others, or the world – all by the way we live.

4. What gift does Jesus have the authority to give and how does John define this gift (**17:2-3**)?

Jesus has the authority over all people to give eternal life to the ones who the Father has given him. Eternal life is to KNOW God and Jesus Christ.

♥ Read **John 17:3** in the *Amplified* version of the Bible. How is this definition of *eternal life* different from what most people probably think eternal life is? Can this life continue after physical death? How so?

John 17:3 And this is eternal life: [it means] to know (to perceive, recognize, become acquainted with, and understand) You, the only true *and* real God, and [likewise] to know Him, Jesus [as the] Christ (the Anointed One, the Messiah), Whom You have sent.

Most people see eternal life as living with God forever and it is seen as starting after a person dies physically. Eternal life is knowing God in a very loving and intimate way – to become more and more acquainted with him. This relationship will continue after we die physically and will continue for all eternity.

♥ In Scripture, the word **know** means to *progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with or to enjoy a deep and mutual friendship with*. Do these definitions describe your relationship with God the Father and Jesus, his Son? Why or why not? How can one get to know God this way?

♥ If *eternal life is to know God in relationship*, how is it that Jesus gives us eternal life (17:2)?

Jesus gives us eternal life by making a relationship with God even possible. Because of our sin, we are separated from God until we accept Jesus' sacrifice made for us on the cross. Through Jesus, our relationship to the Father is restored. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus gives us eternal life – the ability to know and love God.

5. What **work** was Jesus given to do and how did his **completed work** bring glory to God (17:4, 6-8)?

Jesus work was to tell his disciples all about God the Father. God gave Jesus the disciples and it was Jesus' job to tell his disciples all about the Father. Jesus did this by revealing God's name to his disciples. The name of God represents who he really is – his inner character. The disciples believed what Jesus had taught them – that Jesus came from God – and this brought glory to God.

♥ Jesus lived a purposeful life because he knew the work God had given him to do and he completed it.

What would make it possible for you to say to God at the end of your life, what Jesus says in 17:4?

Before we can finish the work God gives us to do, we would have to know what his plan is. His plan for us is revealed as we live in close relationship to God – loving and be loved. As he leads and reveals the work he has for us, we then respond in obedience. It is possible to know what God has for you to do and to know that you are doing it and can complete it.

♥ Do the goals you have for your life match God's purposes for you? How so?

We often decide our own goals in life and never consult God about what his plan for us is. God created us and put us in the time and place that we now live (Acts 17:26). We live and move in him – we can't get away from him. Since he created us, he knows what our gifts are and what will satisfy and fulfill us. Contentment comes from letting God show what our goals for life should be.

♥ If you don't know your God-given purpose or the work God has for you, how might you find out?

Our God-given purpose is revealed to us as we live in a loving, intimate relationship with God
Read **John 17:9-19**.

6. **For whom** is Jesus praying in 17:9-19 and **what** are his specific requests?

Jesus prays for his disciples. He has 3 requests for them:

He asks God to guard and protect his disciples from the world after Jesus leaves them (v. 11)

He asks that God keep them safe from the evil one (Satan) v. 15). He is not asking God to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe as they live in the world.

He asks God to sanctify (make pure and holy; consecrate for God) the disciples by the truth of God's word (v. 17)

♥ Jesus prayed for those he loved. What are some things you ask God to do for your loved ones? Do your prayers usually reflect short-term, pressing needs or long-term, vital needs that people have?

♥ How are the things Jesus prayed for his disciples being answered in your life?

♥ Jesus called the disciples "his glory" because glory and honor had come *to* him *through* them (17:10). When Jesus' life is on display *in us*, we honor Christ and become "his glory." How does knowing that you can be Jesus' glory encourage and/or challenge you?

7. Jesus prayed that his disciples would be protected from the *world* (17:11, 14) and from the *evil one* (17:15). Read the following Scriptures and make a note of what can be dangerous about these enemies.

Scripture	The Enemy?	What is the danger?
1 John 2:15-17	the world	Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. <i>The Message</i>
1 Peter 5:8	the devil	he prowls around looking for someone to attack and destroy
Romans 12:2	the world	The world will try to squeeze you into it's mold – it is too easy to begin to copy the behavior and customs of the world
Ephesians 6:16	Satan	he will shoot flaming arrows at us – always attacking and looking for ways to bring us down in defeat
James 1:27	the world	the world is godless and will have a tendency to pollute or corrupt us
1 John 5:19	the world	we are not of the world, but we live in the world and the whole world system is under the control of the evil one

- ♥ When have you personally been aware of God's protection from the world or the evil one?
- ♥ **How** and **how often** do you pray protection for your loved ones from world and the evil one?
- ♥ How can you be *in the world* but not *of the world*? What do you think your life-style indicates about your relationship to the world?

8. Why doesn't Jesus want his disciples to be taken out of the world (17:15, 18)?
Because Jesus sends us *into* the world

What is the purpose of Jesus sending his disciples into the world (Matthew 28:18-20)?

Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." *The Message*

- ♥ What do you see as your part in the above command that Jesus gave all his disciples?
- ♥ How should we pray regarding the people of the world?

9. Read 17:17 in the *Amplified* version. Besides protecting them, what else did Jesus ask the Father to do for his disciples that would make their mission in the world successful after Jesus left?

Sanctify them [purify, consecrate, separate them for Yourself, make them holy] by the Truth; Your Word is Truth.

- ♥ How is it that we are *sanctified*, made *pure and holy*, *set apart* for God to be used by him (17:17)? How does God's Word make us pure and holy?

God himself cannot be separated from his Word. The Word of God contains God. God's Word is living and active, sharper than a sword as it penetrates our soul and heart. To learn, study and meditate on God's Word is to take in God himself. It is through God's Word that we learn who God is and how we can have a loving relationship with him.

- ♥ Read **John 1:1,4**. How do these verses expand the meaning of 17:17?

Jesus is the Word of God and in him is light and life. Another way to be made holy by God's Word is to be in relationship with Jesus.

- ♥ In what ways do you feel you have been "set apart" for God and for his purposes?

Read **John 17:20-26**.

10. **For whom** is Jesus praying in **17:20-26** and **what** are his specific requests?

Jesus is praying for all those who will believe in Christ throughout all time. Jesus is praying for us in these verses. He prays that we will become one heart and mind— Just as Jesus and the Father are one. Then we will be one heart and mind with the Father and Jesus.

Jesus also tells the Father that he wants to us to be with him so that we can see the glory and splendor that the Father gave Jesus.

- ♥ What does it mean to you that Jesus thought of you and prayed for you before his death (**17:20**)?
- ♥ Read **Hebrews 7:25**, **Romans 8:34** and **1 John 2:1**. What activity is Jesus still engaged in on your behalf? Jesus is constantly and consistently praying for us, pleading our case with the Father. We are never out of his thoughts or his prayers. What effect do you think this has on your life?
- ♥ What does it mean to you that Jesus "can't wait" for you to be with him where he is (**17:24**)?

11. Several times and in several different ways, Jesus prays that all who love him would be **one just as he and the Father are one**. What is the ultimate purpose behind unity for which Jesus prayed (**17:21, 23**)? That the world will come to know God and believe in him and believe that God sent Jesus. When we are one, the world sees a picture of God and will believe that God is love.

- ♥ How does unity prove the truth of Jesus' claims and help the world believe?
- ♥ What happens when there is division instead of unity? What message does this send to the world?

12. Listed below are four different types of "oneness." Which one do you think best fits what Jesus meant when he prayed that all his followers would be "one" (**17:21-23**)? Why?

Unanimity - a shared view by all the people concerned, with nobody disagreeing

Uniformity - conforming to one standard or rule

Union - joining together of people and organizations to make one whole

Unity – oneness of mind, heart and purpose toward a shared interest or goal

Within the history of the church, there have been wide differences of opinion and ritual. Unity, however, exists wherever there is a deep and genuine experience of Christ and his love. The fellowship of the new birth transcends all historical and denominational boundaries.

Jesus did not pray for absolute **unanimity of mind**, nor for **uniformity of practice**, nor for **union of the visible organization** (denominations). Rather, he prayed for the underlying unity of the spiritual nature (oneness of heart, love and purpose) which would enable his people to be a convincing testimony before the world.

- ♥ Does unity mean the merging of denominations, traditions and liturgies? Why or why not?
- ♥ What is the relationship between love and unity? Can one exist without the other? Why or why not?
- ♥ Do your words and actions tend to lead more toward unity or division?
- ♥ In what practical ways can we demonstrate our oneness with other believers?

Response

- Why do you think Jesus purposely prayed this prayer out loud in the presence of his disciples?
- In what ways does Jesus' prayer encourage and/or challenge you?
- What **principles of prayer** can you discover in this prayer that will help you pray more effectively?
- Using Jesus' prayer in **John 17** as a model, write out your own prayer in which you ask *specific requests* for yourself, for those with whom you are very close, as well as for those with whom you have a **more distant relationship**. Use this prayer for a length of time and keep a written record of how God responds to your requests.

BELOW IS THE EXTRA SCRIPTURE FOR LESSON 17 THAT YOU CAN PRINT OUT FOR SMALL GROUP TIME

NIV

Luke 5:16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 6:12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Luke 9:18 Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

Luke 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.

John 12:23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

1John 2:15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. **17** The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Ephesians 6:16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

1John 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

1John 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

NLT

Luke 5:16 But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

Luke 6:12 One day soon afterward Jesus went to a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night.

Luke 9:18 One day as Jesus was alone, praying, he came over to his disciples and asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

Luke 9:28 About eight days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John to a mountain to pray.

John 12:23 Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. **24** The truth is, a kernel of wheat must be planted in the soil. Unless it dies it will be alone—a single seed. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.

1John 2:15 Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you. **16** For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world. **17** And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever.

1Peter 5:8 Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.

Romans 12:2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

Ephesians 6:16 In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan.

James 1:27 Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us.

1John 5:19 We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the power and control of the evil one.

Matthew 28:18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. **19** Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **20** Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

John 1:1 In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and he was God.

John 1:4 Life itself was in him, and this life gives light to everyone.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save everyone who comes to God through him. He lives forever to plead with God on their behalf.

Romans 8:34 Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for he is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us.

1John 2:1 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if you do sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who pleases God completely.