



## PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

## LESSON 21 JOHN 17:1-26

1. What new “aha!” did you have about your Heavenly Father from last week’s study on **the Disciples’ request** and how has this given you fresh motivation to spend time with Him in prayer?

**JESUS’ PRAYER FOR HIMSELF, HIS DISCIPLES, ALL BELIEVERS**

Many consider this the greatest prayer ever recorded. We get to listen in to this intimate dialogue within the Godhead, Jesus the anointed Son sharing His deepest desires with His Father. Jesus is facing His imminent arrest and crucifixion while He is praying. As you tread this holy ground, may you be in awe of the heart of Jesus whose desire is that those who believe in Him enjoy this same intimate Oneness with Him and the Father.

2. Read **John 17:1-26**. Pray. Read it again, slowly. In this passage, you hear Jesus’s words about His identity and purpose and the identity and purpose of His disciples and all believers. What words or phrases touch your heart as you take in the heart of Jesus through His prayer?
3. a) The words “glorify” and “glory” are repeated in **V1** and **4-5**. Look up glorify and glory in a dictionary or online; in your own words, explain how these words give Jesus identity and purpose as expressed in His prayer for Himself.  
  
b) What amazes you about the glory of Jesus from **V5, 10** and **24**?

4. How does Jesus describe eternal life in **V2-3** and how does His description compare to your own thinking about eternal life? See also **John 10:27-30** and **Romans 6:22-23**.
5. According to **John 17:6-10, 14**, what are some of the unique things about Jesus's disciples and the relationship Jesus had with them?
6. a) Summarize Jesus's request for His disciples in **V11-16** and why Jesus prayed this for them. See also **John 16:28-33**.
- b) In **V17-19** Jesus prays for the disciples to be sanctified by the truth. What do you think this is and why do you think this is important in light of **V18**? For insight on sanctification, read **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14**.
7. a) Read **John 17:20-26**. How does Jesus enlarge His prayer in **V20**? What does He desire for them and what do you see as the greater purpose of this prayer?
- b) Jesus speaks about unity in these verses as He did in His prayer for the disciples in **V11**. He said "You, Father, are in Me, and I in You" (**V21**) and "I in them, and You in Me" (**V23**). Review the following verses to better understand the Oneness of which Jesus describes and share new insights from each.

- Psalm 133:1
- Ephesians 4:3-6
- 1 John 3:24

8. Often our prayers are shallow, small and situational. Think about opportunities you have to pray deeper and bigger, eternally weighted prayers. Pick one example from **John 17** and share how will you incorporate what Jesus prays for His followers into your prayers.

#### 9. HEART REFLECTION

**Psalm 133:1,3 “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! ... For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore.”** As you ponder the **John 17** prayer that Jesus prayed near the end of His ministry, together with this psalm, write a prayer about unity that is on your heart.

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PRAYER REQUEST