

Discussion Guide Week of **April 12, 2020**

Text: **John 17:1-18**

Big Idea (point of the sermon): **Jesus is glorified as we belong to Him and in Him become one.**

In John 17, Jesus prays for Himself, His disciples, and for the local church. This section is essentially a prayer summing up everything He has taught and commissioned the disciples to do in John 13-16. His prayer is that it would come to pass. Jesus says to the Father in prayer: “But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.” John 17:13

He prays that we might know that nothing He has done was a misstep. The suffering of the cross was not an accident, nor could it defeat Him. He desires them to experience His joy. The deep joy that comes from knowing the secure place we stand in God. The joy that comes from living for our created purpose for relationship with God and others.

It is understanding these things which drowns out the fears, reservations, and hang ups we have in wholly giving ourselves to Him. The first three requests in the prayers are as follows:

1. **Jesus prays the Father would glorify Him-** to glorify means “to clothe in splendor or honor”. Jesus is requesting that He would receive the glory that has been His since before the world began (17:5). Why? So that He might glorify the Father!
2. **Jesus prays that the disciples would be secure in His Name, and “sanctified” in God’s truth.**
 - a. **Secure in the Name of God.** Or as He puts it in verse 11, “kept” in God’s name which is His full power. So what is it that can shake you, if you are kept in the name of God? So many things seek to throw us off, but Jesus prays His disciples would be kept by God’s Name from the deceptions of darkness. From allowing our lives to blur with the values of this world. To have courage because we know the one who has risen from the dead, He calls us friend.
 - b. **Sanctified in God’s truth.** To be sanctified is to be set apart for the purposes of God, to be made holy. This is a progressive work in the life of the believer. That we are being set apart and so sent out to accomplish God’s work in the world, revealing His character through His word and inviting others to know Him.

These truths are not there to just sleep on, they are to be lived courageously in. Can you with Jesus say, “Father I’ve glorified you in this, because I’ve accomplished the work you have asked me to do?” not the work of some televangelist, or somebody else you know. He has called you to unity and faithfulness as the word reworks your understanding of His world in community with other disciples.

Maybe take some time and read Exodus 34 and realize who it is you have come to know in Jesus, read it in light of the cross and resurrection.

If you want to see the result of resting in this prayer of Jesus read Acts 4.

Below are the five questions we ask every week in our Life Groups:

1. How is your week, what are you going through, how are you really doing?

2. What truth jumped from the text/Bible/Message at you this week?
3. What challenged you from the message? Was there something that you struggled with in the sermon? If not why not?
4. How have you done at applying the text and message to your life? How can we help each other live this out? (is there someone we can bless, something we need to memorize, a commitment we need to hold each other to? Be as specific as possible).
5. In what ways can we pray with and for each other?

Prayer Points:

Why don't you just pray John 17? For Jesus to be glorified, for His disciples (you and me) to experience security in His grace, and be set apart and sent for His glory the good of the world, and next week we will pray for the church (but you can do that too pray verses 20-26 for us.