

08

JOHN 17:13-26

ONE IN CHRIST



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Did you know Jesus prayed for you? Today we'll investigate a passage in which Jesus prayed for His followers, present and future. What exactly did Jesus pray for? Well, His disciples were going to endure major social rejection. Jesus didn't ask God the Father to keep His followers from being hated—He prayed that in the midst of the hate, the Father would protect them, sharpen them, and unify them. The main focus of Jesus's prayer was unity. This can seem impossible sometimes, which is exactly why we need God to do a supernatural work—and we need to be personally committed to pursuing unity ourselves. When Jesus's followers are unified in Him, despite our difficult circumstances, we act like a neon sign to the world: Jesus is God, and God loves His people!



CENTRAL **truth**

When God's oneness overflows to God's people, it points the world to Him.



EXPLORE.

scripture

JOHN 17:13-26

JOHN 17:13-19

13 “Now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy completed in them. **14** I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **15** I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. **19** I sanctify myself for them, so that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

JOHN 17:20-23

20 “I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. **21** May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. **22** I have given them the

glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. **23** I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.

JOHN 17:24-26

24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they will see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the world’s foundation. **25** Righteous Father, the world has not known you. However, I have

known you, and they have known that you sent me. **26** I made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love you have loved me with may be in them and I may be in them.”

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JOHN 17:20-21

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JOHN 17:1-5

DWELL

Jesus was about to endure the most horrendous experience imaginable! The other Gospel accounts record prayers that Jesus offered to God the Father concerning His pain that night (see Matt. 26:39,42; Mark 14:35-36; Luke 22:41-42). However, Jesus's focus in His prayer in John 17 is different. Instead, He was focused on God's glory, and He was focused on the protection and unity of His followers.

↑ What does this passage reveal about God the Son and God the Father?

← How do you think it impacted Jesus's disciples to hear Him say "the hour has come"?

MEMORIZE

Using colored pencils or pens, creatively write out John 17:20-21 on a piece of paper. Read the verse out loud five times. Finally, try to say it out loud five times without looking, trying to picture it in your mind instead.

PRAY

Thank Jesus for all that He endured in order for sinners to become His family!

day 2

JOHN 17:6-8

DWELL

Based on Old Testament promises, Jewish people had been looking for the One whom God would send to rescue them. So, when Jesus's disciples believed Jesus's claims, they were believing He was the One they had been looking for—God the Son, sent by God the Father. In faith, they were trusting that Jesus was the promised rescue and God Himself! They met God, and they recognized Him.



What does this passage reveal about the disciples' faith?



What does this passage reveal about the relationship between God the Father and God the Son?

MEMORIZE

Invent motions that match the words in John 17:20-21 and practice them while saying the words out loud a few times. It probably feels a little weird, but hey, sometimes movement can help engage our brains!

PRAY

Tell God things you don't understand about Him or places where you desire your faith to grow. Ask Him to help you!

day 3

JOHN 17:9-19

DWELL

Jesus was about to endure profound pain and ultimately death—and His disciples would suffer some, too. In Jesus's prayer, He asked God the Father to use all of these painful, horrible things for good—for God's glory, for His followers' joy, and for His followers' sanctification. This is a thread throughout Scripture: God can bring beauty from ashes.



Compare verse 13 to John 15:11. Why did Jesus say these things?



How could you use this passage to encourage someone enduring a difficult situation?

MEMORIZE

Write out John 17:20-21 on a piece of paper or note card, and place it next to your bed. Make it a goal to say it five times before you go to bed and five times when you wake up.

PRAY

Think of a painful situation you or a friend are enduring and share it with the Lord. He is with you! Ask Him to use that situation to make you (or your friend) more like Him.

day 4

JOHN 17:20-23

DWELL

In this part of John 17, Jesus's main focus is on unity. God is one, and when His oneness overflows into His people, the world pays attention. Unity seems so unnatural to humans that the world will take notice and recognize something supernatural has happened. Of course, we know that unity isn't something automatic. It's something that's produced through us towards one another as we are shaped into God's image.

 What struggles and relationships come to mind when you read Jesus's prayer for unity? Why? How can you pray for these relationships?

 How can you pursue unity in these or other relationships today?

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of John 17:20-21 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

PRAY

Talk to the Lord about places in your life where unity seems impossible. Ask Him to grow you and others involved to look more like Him so that you can view and treat one another as true family members.

day 5

JOHN 17:24-26

DWELL

Jesus said God loved Him before the foundation of the world. A love like this has endless capacity to grow and grow. The love God the Father gave to God the Son will be in God's followers. Verse 26 shows us this happened because God the Son made God the Father's name known. Take a look at Exodus 34:5-8 as well—this passage helps us understand what God's name means. Through Jesus, we know what God the Father is like.

 In Exodus 34:5-8, God tells Moses His name by describing what He's like. How do you see that in Jesus?

 How can God's love overflow into how you love others?

MEMORIZE

Share John 17:20-21 with a friend or family member, and explain what it means. Then, invite them to quiz you at some point today to see if you can remember the verse.

PRAY

Praise God for what He's like! Ask Him to help you remember what He's truly like when the world tries to tell you otherwise.