



# [study guide]

## PRAY LIKE JESUS: Week 1

### 3.10.13: John 17

#### [warm up]

How would you define prayer?

Why do most people find themselves praying at times (from the person who might not even profess a faith in God to a faithful follower of Jesus experiencing a passionate relationship with Christ)?

Where did you learn to pray and how (things you were taught as well as things that you “caught”)?

Why is it that there are times in our lives where we are hungry to pray and it comes easy and there are other times that prayer is neglected and difficult?

#### [dig in]

As we spend the next three weeks looking at John 17, the longest and most intimate recorded prayer of Jesus, our goal is to see what we can “catch” from His prayer life and apply to our own; to pray like Jesus. Read all of John 17 (maybe have group members take 3 or verses each)

As the Apostle John records this powerful and intimate moment of prayer just hours before Jesus is going to be arrested, what observations do you make in the first five verses? (what posture did Jesus take? What was on His prayer “checklist”? etc.)

In verses 1-5, we see Jesus making a request for Himself. How can seeing Jesus pray for Himself in this moment give us greater comfort in praying for ourselves? Why is it that we find ourselves sometimes either only praying for ourselves or uncomfortable with praying for ourselves at all?

Get your hands on a Bible concordance (back of your Bible, book form or online search window – youversion Bible app, esvbible.org, biblegateway.com, etc) and look up the word “Father” in the Gospels (Matt, Mark, Luke, John) when used in reference to God

What can we learn from how often this term is applied to our relationship with God?

How can approaching God as our Father help us pray more often? With greater confidence? With greater intimacy?



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What was the ultimate request that Jesus was making of the Father in Vs. 1-5? What does Isaiah 43:7 say that we were created for? What does 1 Cor. 10:31 and 1 Peter 4:11 tell us to do? So what is our ultimate prayer request then? How do we know when that prayer is being answered?

## [living it out]

As you reflect on your personal prayer life in light of John 17:1-5: Have you experienced moving beyond bowing your head and closing your eyes in your prayer time? Eyes open, standing, kneeling, etc? What is something you can try this week?

Are you experiencing the intimacy and confidence of coming to God as your Father? How can you increase that this week and beyond?

As you lay your praises, thanksgivings, confessions and requests before God, regularly add in the ultimate request of asking God to help your life glorify Him..

As you close this time in prayer, let the content above guide your time, and offer a special prayer for the