



[study guide]

PRAY LIKE JESUS: Week 2

3.17.13: John 17

[warm up]

Has there ever been a time when you were deeply moved because someone prayed out loud for you? Please discuss how that experience impacted you.

Has there ever been a time when someone was deeply moved because you prayed out loud for them? Please discuss how that experience impacted you.

How do you think your prayers for others are like and unlike Jesus' prayers for others? How do your prayers reflect the short-term needs of people? How do they reflect the long-term needs of people?

[dig in]

Who or what is the focal point of Jesus' prayer in 17:6-19? If Jesus had prayed only for the short term needs of His followers, how would that have changed this prayer?

Notice what Jesus prays to His Father in John 17:6, "Yours they were, and You gave them to Me." Even before conversion, the disciples belonged to God (see John 6:37). Like us, they were chosen before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). Like us, their names were written in the Lamb's book of life (Revelation 17:8). How can this knowledge give us confidence and boldness as we face an increasingly hostile world?

Yes, we belonged to God even before our conversion. But that does not negate our responsibility to respond to the gospel. Read John 17:8. What are the verbs that describe a true disciple's response to God? Spend some time describing how you have responded in this way.

In John 17:12 Jesus prays about keeping and guarding His disciples. See also John 10:27-30 and I John 5:11-13. How can the knowledge of our eternal security motivate us rather than detract us from faithfulness and fruitfulness?

In John 17:15 Jesus prays that the disciples will be protected from Satan. Though Jesus' sacrifice on the cross sealed the ultimate defeat of Satan, he is still loose and orchestrating his evil system against us. (See I Peter 5:8, Luke 22:31-32, and Ephesians 6:12.) Read John 12:31, John 16:8-11, Colossians 2:13-15, and Revelation 12:11 and then discuss how God protects us from the evil one.



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Read John 17:17. To be sanctified is to be set apart by God for His purposes so that we do only what God wants and we hate what God hates. Read Leviticus 11:44 and I Peter 1:16. Discuss how the truth of God's word is used by God to make us holy.

In John 17:17, Jesus prays to the Father, "Your word is truth." Is there a difference between His saying "Your word is true" and "Your word is truth"?

Read John 17:18. We learned that maybe we could tweak the phrase "in the world, but not of the world" to be: "in, not of, and to." According to Jesus we are "sent into" the world. We are to be missionaries cleverly disguised... Read John 1:14, John 3:16, and John 20:21 and then discuss how Jesus did not stay separate and how He was not a commuter. Why is it easy for some believers to think they are being holy by disengaging from the world?

[living it out]

On a scale of 1-10, share with your LifeGroup how sure you are about your salvation – about your eternal security. (If you are not sure about your salvation, then your LifeGroup leader will point you to some resources and work with you to help you gain assurance.)

On a scale of 1-10, how sanctified are you? What 1-2 lifestyle changes regarding the truth of God's word would move you the most toward more sanctification? (If you haven't done so, make a commitment to use the CVC Bible reading and memorization plan.)

What is your mission to the world? Where and how has God sent you to restore the broken? (If you are not engaged with a Missional Living opportunity, then your LifeGroup leader will help you connect on mission. In fact, your group may want to engage in a restoration effort as a group project.)

As a LifeGroup, please close your time by praying out loud together for one another. You may want to pray for the person to your right. Rephrasing the words on Jesus in John 17, simply pray, "1) Father, keep him/her safe. 2) Father, make her/him pure. 3) Father, help him/her go."