



Week Two: Jesus Prays for His Disciples – Study Guide

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There are many things in our lives today that tell us we are the center of our own universe. Yet, each failed attempt to buy happiness means it's one let down after another. The truth is that loving God and others is what gives our lives true meaning. Just as Jesus prayed for His disciples in John 17, praying for others takes the focus off us. Caring enough to pray for others comes from an understanding that we have a joy that's been given to us, and a calling that's more meaningful than anything this momentary life has to offer.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) How often do you pray for the people around you? What effect does praying for others have on you?

Into the Bible

Jesus not only prays for Himself, but He also prays for the people closest to Him, His disciples. Let's continue looking at Jesus' prayer leading up to His most difficult season of life, and see what we can learn from it.

WHEN GOD PRAYS

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2) Read **John 17:6-19**. What are some things Jesus prays for his disciples to have in these verses?

3) In John 17:13, Jesus asks for His joy to be in them. What is the difference between joy and happiness? Where does joy come from, and what does joy help us to do? Read **Romans 14:17**, **Romans 15:13** and **1 Thessalonians 1:6**.

In the midst of this prayer, Jesus uses a word, *sanctify*, that we can have a hard time understanding. The meaning of this word in this instance is to separate, or to set apart. The great thing about this prayer is that Jesus doesn't just pray for the disciples to be set apart, but He attaches a specific mission to it.

4) Re-read **John 17:17-19** and then read **John 14:16-20** and **John 15:7-11**. These verses are directly connected to what Jesus was praying about and they help us better understand verses 17-19. As Jesus followers, who sanctifies or sets us apart? In His prayer, for what purpose did He set us apart? Also read **Matthew 28:19-20** to get a clear picture of what Jesus was telling His disciples to do.

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Current Prayer Focus

What we're praying for together as a church:

- Neighborhood Campuses
- Building for the Statesville Campus
- 100 New Leaders at The Cove

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

In Question 5, we covered the word sanctify and what it means. As Christ followers, sometimes we don't act as though we are set apart. We all struggle with sin in our lives. While Jesus died for our sins, forgives our sins, and sanctifies us through His blood (1 Corinthians 6:11), we are all a work in progress and are continually growing in our relationship with Christ. The process by which we are continually growing in becoming more like Christ is called sanctification.

- 8) The Apostle Paul talked about this to the church in Corinth. Read **1 Corinthians 1:2** and **1 Corinthians 1:10-11**. Also, read through **1 Corinthians 6:8-11**. Can you see the difference between being sanctified in Christ and still being a work in progress?

When we go back and read John 17:17-19, Jesus prays that God would sanctify them in the truth. Abiding in the Holy Spirit, the truth, and reading God's word, which is also God speaking truth, is what helps us grow in our relationship with Christ. The more we abide in the Holy Spirit, the more we will discern where He wants us to go to make Christ known. It puts a greater purpose in being set apart. We are set apart for a mission—to make Christ known. Christ becomes more evident to others the more we allow the Holy Spirit to change our actions and behaviors.

- 9) Where are some areas in your life you would like to grow? What are some things you can begin to do today to help you grow?