



Week Three: Jesus Prays for Me – Study Guide

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My wife and I have three handsome boys whom we want to see grow up to love Jesus and reach others for Christ. Every night when I tuck them into bed, I ask God to give us guidance in our present choices that will help shape their future choices and decisions. We are praying for their future. In a similar way, Jesus did the same for future believers. He prayed an incredible prayer for us, and what He wanted the church to be and do for Him.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Do you pray for future things, or for other people's future? What are some things you desire to see happen, continue, or maybe even happen after you die?

Into the Bible

Jesus not only prays for Himself and for his disciples, but He also prays for future Christians. We can learn a great deal in the last six verses of John 17 when Jesus prayed for us as future believers.

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- 2) Read **John 17:20-26**. What's the one main thing Jesus specifically prays for in these verses? Why was Jesus so concerned about this?

- 3) Read **John 14:1-4** and re-read **John 17:24**. We know that none of us are going to live forever. We also read that Jesus is preparing a place for us. When you read those verses, what kind of relationship can you see Jesus wanting with us? Does it change your perspective of your own personal relationship with Jesus? Explain why or why not.

Jesus' final words of this prayer (verses 25-26) are words of confirmation that He will continue to make God's name known that the same love with which the Father loved Jesus would be in them as well. The purpose of making Christ known is not just simply for knowledge but so that every person can have an opportunity to have a personal relationship with Him.

- 4) Read **Acts 2:37-47**. This is one of the first accounts after Jesus left Earth to go be with the Father, that God really showed up in a huge way and people displayed deep love and care for each other. What are some of the ways the people in Acts displayed Christ to their neighbors and each other?

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How Does This Apply?

When you look at Jesus' prayer, sometimes it's easier to talk about what He prayed for and what it all means, without actually making it applicable to our lives.

- 5) Jesus prays that we will remain unified. "We stay united" is one of The Cove's Core Values that we covered recently in our How to Climb a Mountain Series. We've discussed how unity was so important to Jesus and how unity within the body of Christ helps us become more powerful in evangelism. Now it's time to be specific. Are there areas of disunity you need to take care of in your own walk? Take this time to take a look at your relationships within your Life Group, serving team, or even how your words about our church family, support (make God known to others) or distract (make you and your own opinions known to others).

- 6) In the "Where Am I Today?" section, we discussed some things you would like to see happen, continue, or have happen even after you die. Based on what or how you answered, are there areas in your life that you need to change in order to have a greater possibility of those things happening? Explain your answer.

God's work of reaching future believers isn't done until Jesus comes back and takes us home to be with Him. One of the biggest reminders that God's work isn't done yet are all the sticky notes that are currently plastered on the walls and boards at The Cove's campuses. Those sticky notes represent the people we are praying for to become future believers.

- 7) Maybe you or one of your Life Group members wrote down a name of a person who needs Christ. What are some of your next steps to take, personally, to try to reach that person for Christ?

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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

Increase Your Learning on Your Own

The passage in **John 17** has the word *glory*, or some form of it, eight times. The word means honor, praise, worship. It can be a little confusing to know what glory means in relation to God and us. Let's look at this to see what we can learn about God's glory.

- 8) Read **John 17:5** and then **Isaiah 42:8**. What does God say He won't do in Isaiah? What conclusion can you make about Jesus?

So, what's the difference between "being glorified" and giving glory to someone?

- 9) Jesus prayed for us to have the same earthly glory He had while He was here on this Earth (**John 17:22**). That's different than asking for a share of God's glory. The opportunities we have in life are a chance to point others to God and give Him glory, just as Jesus did when He lived here on Earth. Read **Matthew 5:14-16**. What would be another word picture for glory? What is the difference between being glorified and giving glory to someone? If you want to read more Scripture on this thought, check out **Romans 8:16-17** and **1 Peter 4:12-16**. These verses particularly talk about being willing to suffer for the sake of Christ to bring glory to God.