



That You May
HAVE LIFE

A STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

women's
BIBLE STUDY



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LESSON *Fourteen*

The High Priestly Prayer



Jesus had finished giving His final words to His disciples and the narrative was about to shift toward the cross. However, before this happened, Jesus took time to pray, desiring to prepare Himself and others for the hard road ahead. He prayed that God would be glorified, His disciples would be sanctified, and that those who would come to believe would more deeply know God’s love. Jesus’ time to leave earth had finally come.

THE HOUR

John 2:4, 7:4, 8:20, and other passages mention that Jesus’ time had not yet come. Now, notice verse 1. This hour is the “appointed time for Jesus’ death/exaltation, for his glorification.”⁷⁷

Read John 17 before answering the following questions.

1. This entire chapter consists of Jesus praying to His Father. Before you start, take a minute to consider the following questions, writing any reflections you may have below: What is prayer and what is its purpose? Do you ever feel like praying is just another thing on your to do list? Is God still good if He doesn’t answer prayer in the way you would expect? (See Appendix: Prayer)

“True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice.”

– Billy Graham⁷⁶

2. To get a bigger picture of what Jesus was praying, summarize Jesus’ main request for each person/group in the chart below:

JESUS PRAYS FOR:	JESUS’ MAIN REQUEST:
Himself (1-5)	
The Disciples (6-19)	
Future Believers (20-26)	

Read John 17:1-5.

3. List any repeated words in this section. What stands out to you and why?
4. Briefly flip back through the pages of John. How did Jesus glorify God on earth? What does it mean to glorify God?
5. Theologian D. A. Carson says, “Eternal life is not so much everlasting life as personal knowledge of the Everlasting One.”⁷⁹ Based on Jesus’ claims in this section, how does this impact your perspective on eternal life?

Read John 17:6-19.

6. Read through this section slowly, recording each “I” statement about Jesus as you go. (Ex: “I have manifested your name...”)
7. Now reread this section and note what Jesus specifically prayed for His disciples:

What do these prayers tell you about Jesus’ purpose for His disciples after His departure?

MUTUAL GLORY

“What does Jesus mean when he asks to be ‘glorified’? The Greek word used here (doxazo) means to venerate, bring homage or praise (see 1:14; 12:28). For Jesus the cross is not a place of shame, but a place of honor. His oneness with the Father means that as he is glorified, so too is the Father glorified. His impulse, then, is not for self-promotion but glorification, so that the Father can be honored through his obedience.”⁷⁸

ETERNAL

Jesus’ eternity is mentioned in verse 5 affirming what Jesus has claimed from the beginning of His ministry. Remember back to John 1:2, which says, “He was in the beginning with God.”

WHY

Verses 6-11a described why Jesus was praying specifically for His disciples.

JUDAS

Verse 12 mentions the son of destruction. This was the disciple Judas, the one who would betray Jesus. His personal choice to reject Christ was not a surprise to God, but rather a tool in God's hand for God's glory.

CONSECRATE

Jesus said "I consecrate myself" in verse 19. To consecrate means to "make some sacred" or "set apart or dedicate to the service of God."⁸⁰

UNITY

For more passages on unity in the body of Christ, read Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Ephesians 4:1-3, 11-13, and Philippians 1:27.

LOVE

Jesus' language describes "a unity of love—a unity which has its root within the soul but is manifested in outward action."⁸¹

WITH JESUS

Jesus told His Father that He wants His people to be with Him. When a believer dies, that person goes to be with Jesus. This then, is an answer to Jesus' own prayer. They will see His indescribable glory given to Him by the Father out of love.

8. Given the context of this section, what does it mean to be in the world but to not be "of the world?" Why didn't Jesus remove His disciples from the world once they trusted in His name?

Matthew 5:14-16, 28:19-20

Acts 1:8

If you believe this is true, what is one way you could think differently about the way you spend your time this week?

9. Read the definition of sanctification in the Appendix. According to verse 17, how are believers sanctified?

Read John 17:20-26.

10. Jesus heavily emphasized the unity of believers in this passage. (Ex: that they may all be one.) Why?
11. Where among believers today do you see disunity? How can disunity affect people's understanding of the gospel and character of Jesus Christ?

12. Read John 17:26 several times over. List 5 observations from this verse:

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Consider that if you are a believer, God, through Jesus and His Holy Spirit, deeply desires to make His love known to you. How does this make you feel?

13. The way Jesus prays, both for Himself and for others, reveals His priorities. Think about your last prayer. What big differences do you notice between your prayer and Jesus's prayer? What can you learn from His example in this chapter?

GOD'S HEART

If you are a believer, Jesus was praying for you as He began the hardest moments of His life. Don't miss this. It shows you God's heart.

ACTIVITY

Turn to page 136 for an optional activity on prayer.

BIG IDEA

What is your biggest takeaway from this week's lesson?

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Guided Prayer

Throughout His time here on earth, Jesus made prayer an integral part of His ministry. It was woven into every aspect of His life. He would rise early, stay up late, and withdraw to isolated places to commune with God. He would pray corporately with others and even before performing miracles (Matthew 15:36; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16, 9:16, 29; John 11:41-42). Jesus demonstrated that prayer is a vital part of your relationship with the Father. It is deeper than a discipline, it should be a lifeline.

How are you doing at making prayer a priority in your relationship with God?

What keeps you from making prayer a priority?

What is the hardest part about prayer for you? Why do you think this is?

After Jesus had concluded His time with the disciples, but before He made His way towards the cross, He paused again to spend time in prayer with the Father. Before you continue on, pause and spend some time in prayer with your Father too.

Clear your mind. Set aside distractions. Take a few deep breaths. As you consider these prompts, simply talk to God. Be amazed that the God of the universe wants to hear from you. Remember, prayer is something you are invited into. Using the outline of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, pray for yourself, for others, and for future believers. Make this specific and personal to you.

Pray for Yourself:

- Thank God for the eternal hope that He offers in salvation.
- Pray that God would be glorified through you.
- Ask Him for strength and endurance to keep strong in the faith.
- Pray that you would be faithful to share your faith with others.

Pray for Others:

- Thank God for the community of believers He has placed around you.
- Pray that their lives would glorify God.
- Ask God to strengthen them in their faith and confidence in the Lord.
- Pray that they would be faithful to share the good news of the gospel with others.

Pray for Future Believers:

- Pray that the good news of the gospel would reach the ends of the earth.
- Pray that those who hear would receive and believe in Jesus Christ.
- Pray that those who believe would be strong in the faith and go and make disciples.

Now Consider: What did you learn from this exercise? What habits can you put in place to develop a more consistent prayer life?

Notes