

## **‘Glorify your Son’** John 17 questions for Growth Groups

Faithful in prayer week 8 - 17/6/24

What is your preference when it comes to prayer? Do you prefer:

- praying alone?
- praying with a small group of people?
- praying in a congregational setting where someone leads the prayers?
- Other? (not praying at all!)

What are your main reasons (for one, or against the others)?

In John 17, we get all three of the above! Jesus is praying to his Father in the presence of his Apostles – incl John who wrote this down – so that this prayer would be made known and joined in publicly!

### **Pray and read John 17:1-26**

1. First impressions: what is encouraging here to you?
2. First observations: what are some of the leading things that repeat in Jesus’ prayer to his Father?  
*[eg glory, make known, being given by the Father to the Son, the world and its opposition, being one]*
3. The structure of his prayer reflects the different people he prays to. Who is he praying for?
4. v1 might be a summary of the whole prayer. But what does it mean to ‘glorify’?  
(What does John 12:23-33 say about how the Son is glorified?)
5. In v1-5 what is the way the Father is glorified?
6. In v6-19 it’s likely Jesus is praying for the Apostles, not disciples in general, v6, 8, 12, 14, 20.  
What concerns does Jesus have for his Apostles as shown in his prayer?
7. Do the hazards the Apostles face feature in your prayers today?
8. If ‘sanctify’ means set them apart, how would you summarise v17-19 in your own words?
9. Who is Jesus praying for in v20? (us!)
10. What does Jesus pray for Apostles and all believers everywhere?
11. What is the kind of unity the Father has with the Son? What kind of unity is in mind in v21 and v23?  
How might it be described? Outward? Organisational? Operational? One of obedience v6?  
Something deeper still?
12. What kind of love does the Father have for the Son? What words might describe it? How does this kind of love come to the believer according to v24-26?
13. Overall, what does Jesus mean when he prays v1 glorify the Son that the Son may glorify you?
14. In what way is this an encouragement to us? A challenge for us? A model for us to pray?

For Growth Group leaders

A quick message about our plans for the coming months.

1. Next GG leaders meeting: **Sunday 4 August 3:00pm-4:30pm** at our home.

2. Upcoming series.

While some details are still being finalized, after **Prayer** we move to **Romans 12** and a **GG break**.

After the GG break, we're taking 2 weeks to preview the **3-2-1 course** which introduces people to God (we'll be running this 4 wk course for guests from mid-Sept). After 3-2-1 I'm planning that we'll spend 5 weeks on a topical series '**Talking about Jesus with others**' (5-Aug to 8-Sep).

FYI: During this period our Sunday services will see us preaching through Romans 12-16. This means that our Growth Groups will depart from following our Sunday preaching series. It's just for a short time. We'll return to our usual pattern in September.

GG week comm Monday	GG Passage or Topic	Notes
17-Jun	John 17:1-26	+Jay preaching this chapter 23-June
24-Jun	Luke 22:39-46	Mark preaching this passage 30-June.
1-July	Romans 12:1-8	Wally preaching Rom 12:1-2 – 7-July, & Rom 12:3-8 – 14-July.
8-July	GG break	Winter school holidays 6-21 July
15-July	GG break	Winter school holidays 6-21 July
<i>Note: Richard Drury Barnabas Aid preaching Acts 12:1-17 on 21-July, and B.A. prayer meeting 22-July 7:15pm.</i>		
22-July	3-2-1 Course session 1	The course we're using to introduce God to people in mid Sep.
29-July	3-2-1 Course session 2	The course we're using to introduce God to people in mid Sep.
5-Aug	Motivations for mission	Various passages. Series: ' <i>Talking about Jesus with others</i> '
12-Aug	Clarity on our message	Ephesians 2:1-10 Series: ' <i>Talking about Jesus with others</i> '
19-Aug	Connecting with people	Various passages Series: ' <i>Talking about Jesus with others</i> '
26-Aug	Listening before speaking	Various passages incl Proverbs 17,18. Series ' <i>talking with..</i> '
2-Sep	Speaking & inviting a response	Various passages Series: ' <i>Talking about Jesus with others</i> '
9-Sep	Romans 12-16	Romans 15:1-33 focus on v14-33

In Christ, Mark