

The Gospel of John

Believe and Live!

Lesson 18

John 17:1–26

The Lord's Prayer

Early in Jesus' ministry, one of the disciples said to Him, "*Lord teach us to pray,*" and He proceeded to give them what has become commonly known as "The Lord's Prayer." But what we see here in John 17 is what should really be called *the Lord's Prayer*, as it focuses on the relationship we are to have with the Father and one another.

At a glance ~ **Read John 17:1–26.**

This chapter is a beautiful depiction of how God expects us to live. As you read it through for the first time, make note of what stands out to you regarding your relationship with God and with those around you.

When the teaching had concluded and His hour had come, Jesus turned His attention to prayer—for Himself, the disciples, and all believers everywhere. His current ministry in heaven is to pray for us (Hebrews 7:25) and within the verses of chapter 17 we see His heart and His petition.

1. What does Jesus pray for Himself? v. 1
 - a. What statement does Jesus make regarding His mission on earth? v. 4
 - b. What did God grant to His Son in order to fulfill His mission? v. 2

c. How does Jesus define *eternal life*? v. 3

When Jesus says “the hour has come,” He is referring to His glorification by way of the cross. He lived His entire life in the shadow of the cross and now He moves determinedly toward that moment. John earlier referred to Jesus’ glory as “*of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth*” (1:14). His glory was manifested so that He could give eternal life to everyone the Father brings to Him. It is life that literally goes on forever, but it is also life in its fullest sense here and now. The death of Jesus on the cross—as horrific as it was—brought glory to the Father through everyone who believes. With His redemptive work almost finished, in verse 5, Jesus looks beyond the cross to the resurrection and ascension, to the glory He had with the Father before the world began.

Take a closer look ~ John 17:23

(Memorize and meditate on the memory verse each time you open your lesson.)

“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that they world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

What does this verse reveal to you about the Father’s love for you?

In focus ~ (Key words) **glory; sanctify**

Look up these words using the resources you have on hand (Bible translations, dictionary, concordance) and write a definition.

glory: _____

sanctify: _____

How does it encourage you to know that you are being sanctified to bring God glory?

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

Outlook ~ Read John 17:6–19.

Here Jesus transitions from His prayer for Himself to His prayer for the disciples. Consider the tenderness of this moment as He lifts this prayer for those that He must leave behind: eleven men who faithfully followed Him and who would now share in His mission on earth. His prayer for His disciples can be broken into three sections below.

1. *Jesus prays because they belong to Him . . . vv. 6–10*
 - a. What, specifically, has He revealed to them while with them on earth?

 - b. What qualifies them to be His disciples?

2. *He prays that they may be kept from the enemy . . . vv. 11–16*
 - a. All of the disciples were a gift from the Father. How does He ask that they be kept?

 - b. For what purpose does he ask that they be protected?

While Jesus was present with them, He was the one that bonded them together spiritually, asking for God's protection and care. Now He commits them to the Father's keeping. Twelve were called, eleven remained faithful; and only one—Judas the betrayer—was unfaithful in fulfillment of the Scripture.

- c. According to verses 14–16, what critical resource was entrusted to these men that would require God's divine protection?

Jesus does not ask that they be taken out of the world but that they would be kept in the midst of an evil world. In other words, the disciples were not to isolate themselves; rather they were to be *in the world* but not *of the world*. They were set apart for God to impact those around them for His glory.

Selah ~

With the armor of God protecting us, Satan has no power over us; the enemy has no hold on us! If our will is to do God's will, then we remain safely in His care. From Ephesians 6:10–18, list the parts of God's armor and what they protect. Remember: you become vulnerable only when you take yourself out of His care by choosing your own way!

3. *He prays that we may be sanctified . . . vv. 17–19*

The person who is sanctified is someone that is *set apart*—or separated—by God for His divine purpose.

- a. What purpose does God have in mind for His people?

- b. By what means are we sanctified?

- c. Who is our model?

Jesus prayed, “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself” (v.18). Likewise we—His followers—must also set ourselves apart as He sends us out into the world to influence and impact the lives of those around us who need a Savior!

4. Personal: Name some of the ways in which you have set yourself apart for the Lord. How has your sanctification had an impact on those around you?

Jesus Prays for All Believers

Outlook ~ Read John 17:20–26.

Take a look at Jesus' prayer in verses 20–26 from a personal perspective and carefully consider your answers to the following . . .

1. Who does He include in His prayer? How does this affect your perspective at this moment?
2. What is the Lord's ultimate goal?
3. What quality is at the core of *unity*? Is this quality evident in *you*?
4. When believers are united the way God desires, what happens?

Selah ~

2 Corinthians 3:18 says: *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."* Think about it: right now, you are being sanctified by God—transformed into the image of His own Son. What do you think it will be like to see Him face to face and be part of His glory? Please share your thoughts.

More like Jesus ~

Are *you* becoming more like Jesus? Absolutely! Every time you open the Word and spend time getting to know Him more intimately, you partake in the life-long process of drawing near—going deeper—bearing fruit—becoming more like Him. As you close your lesson today, determine to put into practice what you've learned by noting it below.

- Recite your memory verse _____

- Reflect on a lesson you received _____

- Respond with prayer and praise to God _____

Notes