



That you may believe... **Leaders Guide for Week 13**

(Times are approximate) – start time: _____

Welcome

- As they come in ask them to think about what their expectations were for studying John versus what their experience has been.

(+6 min)

Opening prayer

- Again, be sure to praise God, thank Him for this study and what people are learning and applying, and then give your petitions for the group meeting.

(+2 min)

Opening Comments

- This chapter is simple to read, no difficult words, yet it is so profound it reaches right into eternity!
- We need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand, to experience, in part, what Jesus might have been thinking.
- Jesus is not teaching His disciples to pray in this chapter – that was done earlier in what we call the Lord's Prayer.
- This entire chapter Jesus prays, not as a man, He will do that in Gethsemane, but He is praying as the eternal Son of God!
- Jesus' entire prayer demonstrates His equality with God!
- This is truly a very special view of the relationship Jesus has with His Father.
- No wonder we can't fully understand what is said here, God's thoughts are so much higher than ours.
- Only with the help of the Holy Spirit can we begin to appreciate, even grasp, what Jesus is sharing with us.
- Jesus says in **17:9**, *"I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours."*
- His prayer is selective; it's not for everyone but rather for Himself, His disciples, and future believers.
- Understand, Jesus loves people in the world, He bled for them, He was nailed on the cross for them, He gave His life for them, but this is a private and personal time for Him with His Father and He is speaking only of those who accept Him as their Lord and Savior.
- In this prayer, Jesus desires to bring glory to His Father.
- We can narrow the meaning *glory* in the phrase *"the glory of God"* down to a couple of basic meanings:
- The first meaning of *glory* originated from the Greek, (*doxa*).
- A sample of its meaning in **Psalm 24:8,10**, *"Who is the King of glory (doxa)? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle... The Lord Almighty – He is the King of glory (doxa)"*
- The *"glory of God"* is linked directly to God's attributes as we see them worked out over time!
- God can be called *"King of glory"* because He is perfect in all His attributes.
- Jesus demonstrated this glory while He lived on earth.
- The second meaning of *glory* originates from Hebrew and was any outward manifestation of God's presence.

- One wonderful example of this *glory* relates to Moses when he saw the burning bush that wasn't consumed.
 - Another instance is Moses' glowing face after being with God on Mt. Sinai; he had to cover it because it glowed so much.
 - The Hebrew word for this *glory* is *Shekinah glory* – it's an outward manifestation of God's presence and can be seen by everyone.
 - The Jewish thought is that this form of God's glory could not be approached by man – it would kill him.
 - So to think that Jesus put aside His *glory* (doxa) to come to earth is an awesome thought indeed.
 - He put aside the *Shekinah glory* also during His incarnation, or no one could have approached Him.
 - A final comment before doing the lesson relates to Jesus' statement in **17:4**, "*I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do*"
 - We often have projects or responsibilities that we do not complete.
 - This is not the case with Jesus – He completed the work given Him to do by His Father.
 - He didn't merely attempt it and then turn away.
 - He didn't just carry it forward a bit and then stop.
 - He finished the work – the indication His work was complete is that God raised Him from the dead and He is now seated at the Father's right hand.
 - Are you satisfied with that? One person who is – God!
 - Remember the first time you paid something off that you bought on time – you remember how great the feeling was when you saw the person place the stamp – "Paid in full" on the document.
 - Can you imagine the satisfaction Jesus had when he returned to His Father and was able to say, "I have brought you glory on earth!"
 - Jesus' obedience to the Father's will in dying, fully *glorified* Him.
 - Our only glory is in Christ's death, rather than in any works or plans of our own.
 - With that in mind, let's go through the study lesson questions.
- (+12 min)

Discussion of the Study Lesson – (~32 min)

This week's title: Passion Week - One with God - **John 17:1-26**

Highlighted verses:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those you have given Him." **John 17:1-2**

Day 1: Read John 17:1-26

1. **Read John 17:1-26** at least once, jotting down initial observations.

- Discuss what people learned – what interested them, what was new, what did they already know, etc.
- (+5 min)

Day 2: Read John 17:1-19

1. In **John 17:1-4**, note how often the word glorify is repeated. According to the **John 17:1-4**, who is glorified and how is this accomplished?

- Verse two helps answer this question: "that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him".
- Jesus and the Father are glorified in the cross and exaltation of the Son.

- God is glorified as His sovereign purposes are accomplished in the election of those who will be redeemed.
- John Calvin: “It may be objected that nothing could be less glorious than Christ’s death, which was close at hand. I reply that in that death we see a boundless glory which is concealed from the ungodly. In his death we see that the world has been reconciled to God by the expiation of sins; the curse has been blotted out and Satan vanquished.”¹

(+4 min)

2. In this prayer we are allowed to listen in to an intimate conversation between Jesus and His Father. What is really important to Jesus?

- Some possible answers:
- The glory of the Father and the Son
- Eternal life for all those that Father has given the Son
- That those who believe obey God’s word.
- That believers know that Jesus came from the Father.
- Protection for those who the Father has given the Son
- Protection from the evil one
- Sanctify them by the truth

(+3 min)

Day 3: Read John 17:20-26

1. What do you learn about unity in these verses?

- This is a personal question so encourage people to respond.

(+4 min)

2. In **Luke 12:51** Jesus says he has come to bring division. Why is this statement in Luke not in conflict with his prayer for unity in **John 17**?

- We live in a fallen world.
- The invisible church of Jesus Christ will experience division with the world.
- There is a contrast between the light and the dark.
- Even within the visible church there is division.
- For example, Martin Luther experienced division as he stood firm on the Word of God.
- Jesus prayed for unity for His invisible church: all believers.

(+3 min)

Day 4: Read John 20:31

Consider how **John 17:1-26** relates to John’s purpose in writing this Gospel. “...that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (**John 20:31**).

1. How does Jesus describe eternal life in **17:3**?

- “...that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus the Christ, whom You have sent.”
- Eternal life involves knowing the true God and Jesus as the Son of God.

(+2 min)

2. From **17:8,21** - what are we to believe?

- Believe that the Father sent Jesus.
- Throughout the Gospel of John the focus is believing in Jesus.

(+2 min)

Day 5: Read John 17:1-26

1. How can you demonstrate unity with other believers?

- Personal question, again just listen to discussion

(+4 min)

2. Who does Jesus include in **17:10**? (See also **Romans 8:34**, **Hebrews 7:25** and **1 John 2:1**). What does this mean for you?

- This is another personal question.
- We are those who believe through the message of the disciples as revealed in the Bible.
- Jesus is interceding for all believers.
- The Son of God intercedes for each of us. Amazing!
- Whenever life seems dark, we can find encouragement that Jesus is interceding for each believer.

(+5 min)

Closing Comments

- In 17:17-19 we see three reasons why Jesus prays for His disciples:
- 1) He will no longer be in the world to insulate them from everything that comes (11-14).
- 2) They are His children so He asks the Father to protect them, a form of insulation from the world (15-16).
- 3) He prays that they will become one with Him as He and His Father are one (17-19).
- Jesus had protected the disciples from the hatred of the world – He was their buffer, He made sure He was the focus of the hatred.
- He sees His children set in a violent world and desires God's protection for them.
- Did you ever wonder why Jesus didn't just take His disciples out of the world once they believed?
- He could have but He didn't.
- Here are three good reasons He didn't:
- 1) He left them and us here because there are others He loves wants them to know His Son Jesus Christ.
- The disciples, and every believer, is commanded (**Matt. 28:19-20**) to share the gospel with others so they may be open to His calling.
- This supports the statement as to why John wrote this letter (20:31).
- 2) If the disciples or we went as soon as we were converted we would only have an embryo of Christ in us.
- There would be no full development.
- The only way we can really know true faith is to have it tested to the nth degree.
- Through testing their faith and ours becomes stronger, has endurance, perseverance, power, and confidence for the next level of His service.
- 3) God wanted them and us to have what Jesus Christ had while He was here: **the thrill of overcoming!**
- **As we overcome this world, we experience Jesus' full measure of joy (17:13).**
- Since Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in every true believer, we have more power than the disciples had before they received the Holy Spirit in **Acts 2:4**.

- Jesus says in **17:22-23**, *“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me”*
 - What glory has the Father given us?
 - One *glory* the Father gave Jesus was the triumphant task of redeeming men to God.
 - By sharing in His calling, we participate in His *glory* and are united with Him and with one another.
 - God and man are together involved in bringing the new creation into being.
 - The effect of this united testimony is a confirmation of the divine mission of Jesus and of God’s love for all people but especially believers.
 - Then **17:24** says, *“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world”*
 - This verse might have jumped off the page at you.
 - The final aspect of eternal life relates to the ultimate destiny.
 - The final attainment is to be with Christ Himself and to see His visible *Shekinah* glory!
 - Jesus is on the eve of being *glorified*, He desires that all believers will see Him as He really is!
 - This demonstrates the **power of unity** in the Triune God is **love**.
 - Jesus’ entire prayer is based on the righteousness of God, who will vindicate Him by *glorifying* Him!
 - Jesus’ purpose is to perfect His union with us, so we in turn will have a oneness with the Father!
 - A last thought is this: **Only the Holy Spirit enables us to experience the benefits of being one with Christ!**
 - Are you one with Christ?
- (+7 min)

Closing Prayer

- As in past, include something from your discussions.
- (+1 min)

¹ John Calvin, “John,” Crossway Books, 1994, Series editors Alister McGrath and J.I Packer, pg. 390