



March 6, 2016 | John 17:6-26

Last week, in John 17:1-5, we listened in as Jesus prayed for Himself. We saw His glory, His authority to grant eternal life and His definition of eternal life. This week, we'll hear Him intercede for His disciples and for all believers.

Read John 17:6-16.

[Q] How has Jesus revealed the Father (His name, His nature) to His disciples? (Verses 6-8)

As we've read and studied John's account of Jesus, how have you seen more of who God is and what He is like? What aspects of Jesus' revelation of the Father have encouraged, amazed or surprised you?

Protect and Keep Them in Your Name

Jesus makes specific requests of His Father for the disciples. The first is to keep them in God's name, starting in verse 11. This isn't just talking about being able to recite the various names of God, like Yahweh or Adonai or Elohim. It means that you know and trust His nature, His character and His characteristics.

[Q] What is the protective power of God's name in a believer's life? How does trusting and knowing Him and His nature help protect you?

Psalm 9:10

Psalm 91:14-16

Ephesians 6:10-18

[Q] What did the disciples need protection from in John 17:14-16? Why would protection in the world and from the evil one be so important to Jesus at this point?

[Q] What is God keeping and guarding for you in 1 Peter 1:3-5? What difference does having this inheritance make to the way you live today?

[Q] In John 17:13, we see Jesus is speaking this prayer aloud, to bring comfort and assurance to His disciples. In what ways do Jesus' words encourage you?

Sanctify Them | Read John 17:17-19.

[Q] To 'sanctify' someone is to 'set them apart for sacred use or for ultimate purposes.' Read the following verses. How does your sanctification include past, present and future?

I Corinthians 6:11

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

[Q] According to John 17:17, God uses His Word as a means to sanctify. How can we allow God's Word to have a sanctifying effect on our hearts and minds?* How might this relate to knowing and trusting God's name?

Make Them One | Read John 17:20-26.

[Q] Jesus turns His prayers from the disciples to those who *will* believe. That's us! What kind of unity does He want?

[Q] Why is our unity a powerful argument for the reality of Jesus?

[Q] In what practical ways can you be "one" with other Christians (17:21)?

Pray

*Check out Bible reading plans in the Bible App (youversion.com).
Next week: Confession, Petition in Matt. 26:36-46, Mark 14:36-42, Luke 22:40-46.