



Read the Gospel

Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.

Scripture passage: John 17

Though we often experience trouble and defeat in life, we overcome the brokenness of the world through the power of the Cross. We find security in God's redemptive work as we trust in His sovereignty. We are made more like Christ through His Word, and we demonstrate love and declare the glory of God to those around us as we stand in unity. This was Jesus' prayer for His own, poured out to the Father prior to His death, burial, and resurrection, and it is an example of how we should live today.

Jesus' prayer in John 17 is also an example to us of the encouragement found in praying to the Father. Communing with God affords us peace, hope, and joy, allows us to transcend life on earth, rest in Jesus' presence, and for a moment, touch the very face of God. The believer who clings to God in prayer finds life through death, joy in sorrow, peace amidst the chaos, and victory in defeat. Belief in Jesus, the One who intercedes to the Father on our behalf, gives us life and makes us more than overcomers – belief in Jesus makes us victors.

Pray for the Work of the Gospel

Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise** God for Jesus, the One who intercedes on our behalf.
- **Repent** for not clinging to God in prayer.
- **Ask** the Holy Spirit to help you learn to pray rather than be overcome with doubt and fear.
- **Yield** to the Holy Spirit as you learn to trust and pray amidst the turmoil of life.

Engage in the Gospel

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion with your Life Group.

- Ask group members to describe their prayer life.
- What does it mean to become an overcomer through prayer?

Read John 16:33-17:1-5.

- What did Jesus pray for in these verses? What was His purpose in praying these things?
- How does Jesus' prayer demonstrate how to live for the glory of God in a world shamed by the brokenness of sin?
- Do your prayers reflect a heart that desires to glorify God?



- How can we live for the supreme glory of heaven while living on earth? How can this type of living be reflected in our prayers?

Read John 17:6-12.

- In his message, Pastor McKinley stated, “We must trust in the security of God’s work for us and not the sincerity of our work for Him.” What does this statement mean to you in prayer?
- Discuss the sovereignty of God. Use Ephesians 1:3-14 as the basis for your group discussion.

Read John 17:13-19.

- Define and discuss the three tenses of salvation: Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification.
- What is the main tool God uses to sanctify the believer?
- Do you view God’s Word as “information” on how to live or “transformation” that affects your way of life?
- How have you seen God’s Word transform your life?

Read John 17:20-26

- Discuss this statement from Pastor McKinley, “Unity among believers is not blindness or sameness, but rather oneness.”
- How can believers bring glory to God and show the love of God as they stand on the Truth of God’s Word together?
- Read the following verses about unity and discuss ways believers can stand together as one rather than become divided by the enemy.
 - Acts 4:32
 - Romans 12:16, 14:19, 15:6
 - Ephesians 4:3
 - Philippians 1:27, 2:2
 - 1 Peter 3:8

Live the Gospel

These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader’s responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately, a disciple-maker.

- Who do you know that needs a phone call of encouragement and prayer this week?
- Who is God asking you to spend time with this week for the purpose of sharing the joy you have in Christ? After you have prayed and identified the person, will you follow-thru?

Joshua Code memory verse:

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. – Revelation 22:17



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