SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

GROUP WORKSHEET · OBSERVE · INTERPRET · APPLY

# John 17

*The Prayer of the Son*

NAME _____ DATE _____

**KEY VERSE · JOHN 17:3 · NASB**

*"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*

The night before the cross Jesus lifts His eyes to heaven and prays out loud in front of the Eleven. He prays for Himself, for them, and for every believer who would come after them. Notice how often He says "given" and "world."

**BEFORE YOU ANSWER**

1. Read John 17 straight through, then a second time slowly with a pen.
2. Mark what you see: God · commands · repeated words · sin / warnings · promises · time / place.
3. Answer from the text first. Write the verse number beside every answer.

**COUNT THE KEY WORDS**

Find each word in John 17. Tally it and note the verses. What does John keep coming back to?

| WORD | HOW MANY? | VERSES |
|---|---|---|
| world | | |
| given / gave / give | | |
| glory / glorify / glorified | | |
| Father | | |
| one | | |
| kept / keep | | |

## JOHN 17:1–5 For Himself

**1** OBSERVE

What does Jesus ask in 17:1, and why (17:2)?

**2** OBSERVE

How does Jesus define eternal life (17:3)?

**3** INTERPRET

Eternal life is first a quality of life, knowing God, not only a length of time. What kind of "knowing" is this? Read Jeremiah 31:34.

**4** INTERPRET

Jesus asks for "the glory which I had with You before the world was" (17:5). Read Isaiah 42:8. What is He claiming?

**5** APPLY

If eternal life is knowing God, how is your knowing of Him growing right now?

## JOHN 17:6–12 For the Eleven: Who They Are

**6** OBSERVE

What does Jesus say about the men the Father gave Him (17:6–8)?

**7** WEIGH THE TEACHERS

"I do not ask on behalf of the world" (17:9). Sproul: "Jesus is praying for all those who belong to God, not for everyone on the planet." Guzik: "Jesus specifically had His disciples in mind in this prayer." Many read 17:9 as this prayer's focus, not a limit on God's love (3:16). What comfort do both readings share?

**8** OBSERVE

What did Jesus do for the disciples while He was with them, and who was the one exception (17:12)?

## JOHN 17:13–19 For the Eleven: What He Asks

**9** OBSERVE

Jesus does not ask the Father to take them out of the world. What does He ask (17:15)?

**10** INTERPRET

Guzik: "Jesus didn't pray that we would be taken out of the battle, but that we would be strengthened and protected in it." What two errors does "in the world, not of it" guard against?

**11** OBSERVE

How are believers sanctified (17:17), and what does Jesus do for their sakes (17:19)?

**12** WEIGH THE TEACHERS

Spurgeon: "God works sanctification in us by the truth, and by nothing else." Sproul: "If you don't care about truth, there's no concern about sanctification." What does that mean for your time in the Word?

**13** APPLY

Are you more tempted to want out of the world or to blend into it? What would being sent into it (17:18) look like this week?

## JOHN 17:20–26 For All Who Will Believe

**14** OBSERVE

For whom does Jesus pray in 17:20, and what does He ask for them (17:21)?

**15** INTERPRET

What kind of unity does Jesus pray for? Is it agreement at any cost?

**16** OBSERVE

What does Jesus desire in 17:24?

**17** WEIGH THE TEACHERS

Spurgeon: "It is the very pith and marrow of heaven to be with Christ." In the garden He would pray, "not My will, but Yours be done." How do 17:24 and that prayer fit together?

**18** APPLY

Jesus prayed for you before you were born (17:20). Who is one brother you are divided from, and what step toward unity can you take?

## WORD STUDY The Greek behind the English

**19** WORD *hagiazō* · G37 · to set apart as holy

Jesus says, "I sanctify Myself" (17:19). Read Exodus 28:29. How is Jesus both the priest and the sacrifice in this prayer?

**20** WORD *tēreō* · G5083 · to keep, guard, preserve

Find "keep" and "kept" in 17:6, 11, 12 and 15. Who keeps whom in each?

## PUT IT TOGETHER The chapter as a whole

**The theme.** In one or two sentences of your own, what is John 17 about?

**Jesus.** What does this chapter show you about who Jesus is that you want to remember?

**This week.** What one thing will you do because of this chapter, and which brother will you tell?

**Around the table.** Prayer requests and what the other men saw that you missed.