

“HE DWELT AMONG US”

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 18 Chapter 17

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” John 17:20, 21

Jesus has finished His private instruction to His disciples (**chapters 13-16**). He now turns to His Father in prayer. This prayer in **John 17** has been called “the Lord’s high-priestly prayer.” He prayed first for Himself (**verses 1-5**). Then He prays for His apostles (**verses 6-19**), and finally for future believers (**verses 20-26**).

Following the example of our Lord, pause now to pray that the Father will use this time to help us to draw close to Him.

DAY #1

Read **John 17:1-19**. Read through again, recording the important facts. In seven words or less, record the main theme that you find in this section. Then write a short title.

Theme:

Title:

DAY #2 Read John 17:1-5 JESUS' PRAYER AND REQUESTS FOR HIMSELF

- 1) In **John 17:1-2**, Jesus prays, "The hour has come."
 - A. The cross is just hours away. In His prayer, Jesus looks up to the Father. How could this focus give Him perfect confidence to look *forward* to all that lay ahead?

 - B. Jesus sees in the cross redemption. He sees beyond the cross, to the resurrection and return to His previous Glory. How does this glorify the Father? *Optional* Look up the word *glorify* in a Bible dictionary.

- 2) In **John 17:3**, Jesus gives the true definition of eternal life. Often we focus on the adjective *eternal* and think about length of life. Here we learn that it is far more. Share what the *quality* of eternal life means to you as described in these verses:
 - A. **John 17:3**

 - B. **Revelation 21:3-4**

 - C. **Revelation 22:3-5**

- 3) Deeply ponder the words of Jesus in **John 17:4**. They sum up His life goals. Write them in the space below.
 - A. *Personal* Could you say that these are the goals that direct your day and, therefore, your life? Why or why not?

 - B. What is the work that the Lord has given you to do? If you don't know, pause and ask Him!

 - C. How can your life (in spite of imperfections and failures) glorify God here on earth? Explain.

DAY #4

- 1) Read **John 17:14-16**. Jesus said that we are “not of the world” just as He is not of the world. Why do you think that the Lord doesn’t just take us to heaven the moment we become Christians?

- 2) His prayer is that we are to be protected from the evil one. Satan is also rightly called our adversary. We are to be aware of his ways, “*lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*” (**II Corinthians 2:11**) Record some of the ways Satan operates as stated in the following verses, giving illustrations, if possible.
 - A. **Luke 22:31**

 - B. **II Corinthians 11:13-15**

 - C. **I Thessalonians 2:18**

- 3) How can we deal with Satan?
 - A. **Matthew 4:10**

 - B. **I Peter 5:8**

 - C. **James 4:7-8**

- 4) Our greatest comfort and defense against Satan is to know that Jesus has prayed for us and is also *now* praying that the Father will “keep us.”
 - A. Write out **I John 4:4**. Read it over slowly, absorbing the strength and comfort these words can provide for us.

 - B. Look up the word *keep*. Describe what it means and how it is that the Lord keeps us.

5) Notice carefully that Jesus says in **John 17:18** that we have been sent into the world *as* the Father sent Him into the world. The word *as* is important. We have a mission and purpose. We don't have to go across the world to be a missionary.

A. Look up the word *mission* in the dictionary and write out the definitions you feel apply to the fact that Jesus said we have been "sent into the world."

B. What is our mission? If possible, use scripture to support your answer.

C. Could it be possible for a Christian to *not* have a mission? Why or why not?

6) Read **John 17:17-18**.

A. Look up and define the word "sanctify."

B. How are we to be sanctified?

C. Why is it important that we be sanctified for our mission in this world to be effective?

DAY #5

Read **John 17:20-26**. This is a very precious portion of Jesus' prayer. Read through again, recording the important facts. Write a short title.

Title:

DAY #6 JESUS' PRAYER FOR US, FUTURE BELIEVERS

- 1) Consider. One of Jesus' final requests here on earth was for unity among His own. A divided and bickering church is a shame to us all. These divisions also grieve the heart of our Lord.
 - A. Does Jesus mean that all churches should work side by side and never deal with doctrinal heresy or unscriptural practices? Why or why not? If possible, use scripture to support your answer.

 - B. What *are* we as believers to be united in and committed to?

- 2) The church (which is comprised of people, not a building) is also described as Christ's Body. Read **I Corinthians 12:13-26**. What do you learn about the following?
 - A. Unity

 - B. Diversity

 - C. Interdependency

- 3) Problems are created within the Church when we don't set aside our own self interests for each other. Unity always needs to start with *us first!* Explain what you learn from the following scripture, *sharing how the principals apply to you personally.*

Philippians 2:3-5 “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,”

- 4) Share what blesses you as you read how Jesus finishes His prayer for us in **John 17:24-26**.
- 5) Prayerfully ponder and record two lessons you have learned in this chapter that you desire to apply to your life.

A.

B.

Application May our Heart's desire and life's goal be to say to the Father as Jesus did:

***“I have glorified You on the earth.
I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”
John 17:4***