

Life Group Discussion Guide

The Lord's Prayer: Delighting in How Jesus Prayed
Week 2: Prayer & Fullness • John 17:6-12

Before we continue our exploration of Jesus' prayer recorded in John 17, let's remember the dual focus we've committed to. We come to this prayer with two goals in mind: (1) to love the Savior more and (2) to learn to pray like the Savior did.

Let's begin!

1. What Jesus did on Earth

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word." John 17:6

To understand what Jesus means here, let's take a step back into verses 2-3 of this same chapter, which we explored last week: "For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." How does this relate to verse 6 above?

"What Jesus did on earth was reveal the Father to those whom the Father gave Him, because in revealing God He was granting them eternal life. That's what eternal life is: knowing the Father and knowing Jesus."

Many people today talk about being "spiritual," by which they might mean pursuing inner peace, connecting to the natural or supernatural, etc., but none of these things is what Jesus means by eternal life. Eternal life is not about being spiritual or religious. It's the life possessed only by those who know Jesus and the only true God He has revealed. In other words, if someone doesn't know the Father and the Son, they don't have eternal life.

- How does Jesus' definition of eternal life conflict with our "coexist" culture, where many believe that all gods are the same and all religions lead to heaven?
- Does accepting Jesus' definition of eternal life necessitate a change in your own spiritual life?
- If you were to accept His definition of eternal life, how would it impact your perspective of evangelism?
- Take time now to praise Jesus for revealing the only true God to us, that we may have eternal life!

2. What Jesus Received From the Father

Our passage today reveals 4 things that Jesus received from the Father:

- a. The Father's People

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word...I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours." John 17:6; 9

Think for a moment on this reality that we've been given to Jesus by the Father. Every true follower of Jesus knows this and feels it strongly—that we don't belong to ourselves or to the world. We're stamped by God. We belong to Jesus.

b. The Father's Things

"Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you...All I have is yours, and all you have is mine." John 17:7; 10

Everything that belongs to God belongs to Jesus and vice versa. As we read earlier in John's Gospel, the Father has "put all things under his power." (13:3)

c. The Father's Words

"For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me." John 17:8

How did Jesus' disciples know with confidence that He was sent by God? His words. To some, Jesus' words are viewed no differently than the words of Aristotle or Shakespeare or Einstein. But disciples of Jesus accept His words with full assurance that they are the very words of God.

d. The Father's Name

"Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me." John 17:11b-12

God's name represents God. God's name carries with it God's power. And God's name is given to Jesus. This is why we pray in the name of Jesus—because we know this is the name that has all authority in heaven and on earth. This is the name by which His disciples are kept and protected.

- Which of these 4 truths most resonate with you? Why?
- How do these truths challenge the narrative that Jesus was simply a teacher or a prophet?
- How do they change your perception of Jesus or how you relate to Him?

3. What Jesus Asks the Father

"I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours...Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that

name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.” John 17:9; 11b-12

Jesus is not praying for the world, but for the ones God gave Him out of the world. He knows they will have the world against them, which is why He prays, Father, I kept them while I was in the world. Now that I’m coming back to you, I’m asking you to keep them in your name.

- How does Jesus’ prayer for your protection encourage you?
- How does it embolden you to face the world in His name?

In closing, Pastor Jon reoriented our attention to the dual focus of our study:

- a. How does this prayer help us delight in Jesus?

First, we see that Jesus’ love for His disciples runs deep. He prayed earnestly for their protection, safety, and unity—that the Father Himself would keep them.

- Does it melt your heart to know how close to His heart Jesus carries you? Or have you taken His affection for granted? Reflect on this together.

Second, we see that Jesus’ trust in His Father runs deep. Where do we see this trust displayed? In the fullness Jesus expresses. The whole time Jesus is talking to the Father He keeps referring to all that the Father has given Him. Over and over He says, You gave me. You gave me. You gave me. On the other hand, we’re constantly upset about what God has not given us, which is exactly how the Serpent taught us to think.

The very first words the Serpent said to humanity, which we’ve never forgotten, were, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” That’s not even close to what God had said to Adam. It’s a blatant lie. And yet it’s why we think of God as a God of No. We so easily overlook all that He has given us. But Jesus recognized that His fullness had come from the Father.

- Does your view of the Father come from Jesus or from the Serpent? Why do you answer that way?
- Take time now to repent of the ways you have distrusted God and overlooked the fullness He’s given you in Jesus.

- b. How should we pray in light of the Lord’s prayer?

Much of Jesus’ prayer is spent rehearsing His history with the Father—what the Father has already done for Him, and what He’s already given Him. It’s from His example that we get this week’s Big Idea: God-centered prayer starts with our fullness from the Father.

Something changes when we turn from asking for things we don’t have to rehearsing how much our Father has already given us. Our discontentment is hijacked by peace, joy, and gratitude. Why?

Because instead of believing the Serpent's lie that tells us God is a God of No, we're rehearsing the fullness our Father has already given us.

- Take time now to rehearse your history with the Father. Revel in the fullness He's given you!