

# SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

## WEEK THIRTY-SEVEN: JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

### READING

9 “My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. 10 All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. 11 Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. 12 During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold. 13 “Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. 14 I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to this world any more than I do. 17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. 18 Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. 19 And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. John 17:9-19 (NLT)

### TEACHING

As Jesus continues his farewell prayer, his attention turns to praying for his disciples. It’s amazing to listen in as Jesus prays for his followers. Later in this prayer, Jesus makes it clear that he’s praying for everyone who will ever follow him (v. 20) – that includes you and me! So, this prayer gives us a glimpse into how Jesus prays for us even now. Let’s look at three ways Jesus prays for his friends.

**1) Jesus prays for our protection.** Jesus asks the Father to protect his friends from the evil around them and the evil within them. Jesus doesn’t ask God to take us out of the world – he knows there is an important reason for us to be in the world. But he does pray that we wouldn’t belong to the world and the evil around us—that we wouldn’t find our identity in worldly pursuits. Jesus also asks God to protect his friends from disunity, from falling prey to the evil within; the evil of selfishness and pride.

**2) Jesus prays for our spiritual condition.** In verse 17, Jesus prays that God would make us holy by his word. In verse 19, Jesus connects our ability to live holy (set apart) to his holy sacrifice on the cross. Our spiritual growth is always rooted in the gospel – the person and work of Jesus! Jesus cares about your heart and he is praying for you even now!

**3) Jesus prays for our mission.** In verse 18, Jesus connects our mission with his! He was sent and we are sent. Jesus is praying for us to remain faithful to the mission of God!

# SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

## RESPONSE

### OPENING QUESTION(S):

- Who is someone you pray for? What do you pray for them?

### TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- In this story, who is Jesus praying for? (Point out that Jesus is praying for them!)
- What does Jesus ask the Father to protect us from?

### CHILDREN:

- In this story, who is Jesus praying for? (Point out that Jesus is praying for them!)
- What does Jesus ask the Father to protect us from?
- Why does Jesus care about our spiritual condition?

### TEENAGERS:

- What did you learn from this passage about how Jesus prays for you?
- How would you explain the evil around you and the evil within you?
- Jesus prays for our mission – what is our mission as his followers?

### ADULTS:

- How do you pray for your children or family members?
- How can this prayer inform the way you pray?

## PRAYER

*God, thank you that Jesus prays for me. Thank you that he prays for my protection. Keep my heart from loving anything more than you and keep me from being distracted or destroyed by anything the world offers me. Thank you that he prays for my spiritual condition. Help me to be in your word so I can be made holy by you! Help me to remember the cross. And thank you that he prays for the mission he has given me. Help me to live to love and serve others, pointing them to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

The author of Hebrews gives us a powerful look at Jesus, our great high priest. Read these verses and consider the amazing gift we have in the prayers of Jesus.

*14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4 (NLT)*