

# SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

## WEEK THIRTY-SIX: JESUS PRAYS TO BE GLORIFIED

### READING

1 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. 2 For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. 3 And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. 4 I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began. John 17:1-5 (NLT)

### TEACHING

These five verses are the start of Jesus’ longest recorded prayer in the gospels. Sometimes it is called the farewell prayer because Jesus is clearly thinking about the end of his earthly life. Jesus is hours from the darkest moments of his life and his focus isn’t on his pain – his focus is on his Father and the work he was given to do. In this passage, we learn three amazing things about Jesus.

**1) Jesus’s main focus was bringing glory to the Father.** Jesus glorified the Father by “completing the work” he was given. In order to complete the work, Jesus had to go to the cross. This is what Jesus meant when he prayed “glorify your son.” There was no glory without the cross. This is also true for you and me as well. You can’t experience the goodness and glory of God if you aren’t willing to embrace the cross – both Jesus’ and your own.

**2) Jesus provides eternal life.** The way to eternal life is to know God and the way to know God is by knowing Jesus. The Son came to reveal the Father to us – anything that is true about the nature of Jesus perfectly reflects the nature of God the Father. And in knowing and believing in Jesus (not just with our heads, but with our hearts), we can have the assurance of eternal life.

**3) Jesus is eternal.** In verse 5, Jesus talks about the glory that he and the Father shared before the world began. The Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) has always existed and always will exist. God has no beginning and no end. This means we can trust his perspective and his wisdom – Jesus is before all and Jesus is over all.

### RESPONSE

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## OPENING QUESTION(S):

- What is something you pray for everyday?

## TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- In this story, who does Jesus want to bring glory to?
- Who gives us eternal life?

## CHILDREN:

- According to this passage, what was Jesus' main focus?
- What does Jesus give us that no one else can give us?
- What does it mean that Jesus is eternal?

## TEENAGERS:

- What did you learn from this passage about the relationship between the Father and the Son?
- How can we know we have eternal life?
- Jesus is eternal – how does that truth help us trust him more?

## ADULTS:

- How is your life glorifying the Father?
- In what ways are you learning to embrace the cross more and more?

## PRAYER

*God, thank you for Jesus. Jesus, thank you that you came to glorify the Father and thank you that you finished the work you were given to do. Thank you that your work is enough for me. Help me to live a life that glorifies you – a life lived for you and not for myself. Jesus, thank you that I can have eternal life in you and because of you. Teach me to look to you for hope and not to other things. Spirit, help me to pray like Jesus did; prayers that are not selfish or short-sighed, but prayers that honor and glorify you. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

The doctrine of the eternal nature of Jesus is a truth that John emphasizes in his writing, even from the start. John 1:1-3 say, *"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him."* The Word is a metaphor for Jesus – the wisdom of God. John clearly understands that Jesus, the second person of the Godhead, has always existed and was at work in the creation of the universe.