

SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

WEEK THIRTY-EIGHT: JESUS PRAYS FOR YOU

READING

20 “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. 24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! 25 “O righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. 26 I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.” John 17:20-26 (NLT)

TEACHING

Verse 20 contains an amazing insight: As Jesus knew he was heading to the cross, he was praying for you. If you are a Christian then according to that same verse, three things are true of you: You are a disciple. You believe in Jesus. And your belief came from hearing the message of the Gospel. The journey of every Christian includes those three things. Let’s look closer at them.

- 1) Being a disciple means you aren’t just a fan of Jesus, you are a follower of Jesus. Disciples are fully committed to knowing and understanding the ways of Jesus. Disciples also make disciples; this means they share their lives with others to help them grow. The main thing Jesus prays for in this text is unity – that his disciples would love each other. One of the signs of our unity is that we are disciples making disciples.
- 2) Believing in Jesus is so much more than just believing with your head. Believing in Jesus is a miracle that happens in your heart. God’s grace and His Spirit transfer our hearts from the darkness to light so that we can see His truth and receive Jesus as our Savior and our Lord. He must be both!
- 3) The only way to place saving faith in Jesus is to hear the message of who Jesus is and what he has done. We should look for ways to demonstrate and declare the gospel in every area of our lives. This means we should live in a way that helps people see the goodness of God and we should also be ready for every opportunity to share the reason that we have such great hope!

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RESPONSE

OPENING QUESTION(S):

- What is something you hope Jesus is praying for you today?

TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- Who is Jesus praying for in this story?
- Are we just fans of Jesus or are we followers of Jesus?

CHILDREN:

- Are we just fans of Jesus or are we followers of Jesus?
- What is the difference between a fan and a follower?
- What do we need to hear before we can believe in Jesus?

TEENAGERS:

- What is the difference between a fan and a follower?
- What was the main thing Jesus prayed for in this text?
- What should unity look like in the church and with other disciples?

ADULTS:

- What evidence is there in your life that you are a follower and not just a fan?
- Who are you being discipled by? Who are you discipling?

PRAYER

God, thank you that I have heard the message of the gospel. Thank you that someone took the time to teach me about who Jesus is and what he has done for me. Holy Spirit, thank you for waking up my heart to my need for Jesus and thank you for revealing Jesus to my heart so I could place my hope and trust in him. Help me to follow Jesus in every area of my life and to help others do the same. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

Verse 24 reveals a desire of Jesus' heart that is often overlooked: *Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!*

Jesus can't wait for his kingdom to be fully revealed on earth as it is in heaven! He eagerly awaits the day of his own return when we will see Him as He is, when we will see the glory of his kingdom, and when we will fully experience the eternal love shared between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. What a day that will be!