

Life Group Discussion Guide
Week of 11/12/2017

This week we are looking at one of the most important chapters of any book in the New Testament! In John 17 we get a look at the mind and motivations of Jesus, and the implications of what He prays to the Father in the disciples midst have significant bearing on how we view our own role in the kingdom of God. Some of what you read in this chapter may challenge your views of your role in the community of faith. Begin your time by praying for God to speak to you. Ask specifically for His revelation of how these scriptures apply to your life. Remember, when your own opinion doesn't match up with the truth of God's word, it's NOT God who needs to change :).

Life Group Leaders: Please don't feel obligated to cover the entire contents of this discussion guide. It's longer than normal, I know. Encourage your group to cover in their own personal devotion time whatever you are unable to get to. To this end I have divided this guide into sections.

Section 1

Read John 17:1-5

1. Verse 3: How does Jesus define "eternal life?"

2. If "eternal life" is defines as above, then when does "eternal life" begin for a believer? What is significant about this revelation? How does it change the manner in which we conduct our time on earth?

Read John 17:6-9

3. Verse 6: What was Jesus assignment from the Father?

4. Matthew 4:18-22 says: **18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing**

their nets. Jesus called them,22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Notice that even though God “gave the disciples to Jesus,” Jesus still had to go call His assignment to himself. Can you think of other examples in scripture where a person or group of people was given a promise but still had to “call it out?”

5. How does this apply to your own life?

*Personal reflection: What is my specific assignment from God? Have I done my part to lay hold of the promise that God has given me? Am I spending too much time and energy pursuing something that God has NOT assigned me? How can I know the difference between what God has assigned me and what I have “assigned” myself?

Section 2

Read John 17:9-12

- 6. Verse 9: Who is Jesus praying for: _____
- 7. Verse 9: Who is Jesus NOT praying for: _____
- 8. Verse 10: How does glory come to Jesus: _____
- 9. How does God get glory when we complete the assignments that He has given us?

10. Verse 12: What does Jesus do for His “assignment” (the disciples) while He is with them? _____

During the course of Jesus’ ministry he performed 37 miracles. On 11 different occasions He cast out demons/unclean spirits. He miraculously manifested food for some 9000 people (4,000 on one occasion, 5000 on another). He physically raised 3 people from the dead. He ministered to thousands of people while teaching and preaching. Isn’t it FASCINATING that when He gives an account to the Father he doesn’t mention ANY of this, but rather focuses on giving an account for His “assignment” which consists of only 11 people? (Verse 12).

11. Considering the above, what do these scriptures reveal about the priorities of Jesus?

Section 3

Read John 17:13-19

- 12. Verse 14: To whom did Jesus give the word of the Father? _____
- 13. Verse 14: What was the result of that given word? _____
- 14. Verse 15: What is the difference between “taking them out of the world” and “protecting them from the evil one?”

17. Verse 17: How are we sanctified? What does that continued “sanctification” look in day to day life?

Read John 17:20-25

18. Verse 20: Jesus expands His prayer. Who is Jesus praying for in verse 20? Before you answer, think of who is included in the word “those.” Make it personal. How does it feel to know that Jesus specifically prayed for YOU (if you are a believer) before He left the earth?

19. Verse 21-23: Jesus prays for protection over us earlier in the chapter. What is Jesus prayer for us in verse 21? _____

20. What is the benchmark/example that Jesus gives for “oneness?” _____

21. What is the net result of believers becoming unified as the Father and Son are unified? How does this challenge our notions of what we are supposed to be doing as believers to advance the kingdom of God?

22. Verse 24: Where does Jesus say that he wants those the Father has given him to be? How does it feel to know that Jesus wants YOU with Him in His presence?