

STUDY NOTES

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

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The following content is based on the message “Jesus Is Praying For You” on 10/22/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 17:1-19

JESUS’S MISSION

Jesus begins his prayer to the Father by talking about his time on earth. Jesus was given authority over all flesh to complete his mission from the Father. That mission was to give eternal life to humanity by revealing God. Jesus describes for us what it means to receive eternal life.

Jesus says, “to know God and Jesus Christ” is eternal life.

- *Why do you think Jesus says that eternal life is knowing God? What does that say about God? What does that say about eternal life?*

JESUS COMPLETED HIS MISSION ALREADY?

In verse 4, Jesus says that he completed the mission that the Father sent him to complete. Remember, this was before the cross and resurrection. At this point, humanly, we might look at Jesus’s ministry and see that his followers were a mess, the crowds had dwindled down to just a few, Judas was about to betray Jesus, and Jesus was just hours from death.

- *Why might it be important for us to see the *seemingly* human failures in Jesus’s work on earth?*

As a part of Jesus’s prayer, Jesus asked the Father to “glorify” him. Most certainly, this glory refers to the resurrection. However, in order to get to the resurrection that means that Jesus had to go through horrible abuse, assault, and even death.

- *What does it mean to you that Jesus understands what it means to be unjustly treated?*

LET’S TALK ABOUT THE DISCIPLES

Despite how we might look at Jesus’s ministry, Jesus says that he accomplished the work from the Father. That work was revealing God to his followers so that they could know God—and know God, they did. Jesus says that his disciples “kept the word” of God. They spent time with Jesus. They trusted Jesus. They observed Jesus interacting with others. They learned from him. Despite their failures, Jesus trusted in—and believed in—the disciples.

- *Why is it important to see the humanity of the disciples? How does seeing their failures encourage you?*

PRAYING FOR US

Jesus shifts his prayers from his own ministry to his disciples who would continue his ministry after he returns to the Father. Jesus prays for them—and for us—for protection, holiness, and for unity. We need protection because need to live like Jesus in the world, and the enemy doesn’t want us to reveal the heart of God to the world.

- *How have you seen Christians completely isolate themselves, unlike what Jesus was asking for here?*

We need holiness to look and act differently than the world because Jesus looked and acted differently than the world. When we believe in Jesus we are declared holy, however since we are still in a sinful world, we have to act in that holiness. Holiness is imitating Jesus, and in doing so, we are revealing God’s heart to the world.

Holiness doesn’t take our fun away. Holiness is for our own good.

- *Why is it so important that the church would seek to live holy lives?*
- *In what ways would holy living be for our own good?*
- *What does it mean to you to know that Jesus set the example of a holy life?*
- *Pray with each other that we would live in our holiness that we’ve been given.*