



Small Group Discussion Guide

August 6, 2017

Sermon Title:

“The Prayer Jesus Wouldn’t Pray”

Sermon Text: John 17:13-25

Scripture Reading: John 17:1-12

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

Getting Started: What are your earliest memories around prayer? Did your family pray together at meals? If so, who led? Was it a memorized prayer that was recited together? Did you say “bed-time prayers” with anyone? When did you start praying alone?

Discussion:

1. We often call Jesus’ teaching on prayer within the Sermon on the Mount “The Lord’s Prayer”, but was it really HIS prayer?.... or was it his TEACHING US how to pray? **(Reference: Matthew 6:9)** What do you think?
2. There are four references (one in each gospel) to Jesus’ prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Look up the first three and comment on the gospel writer’s reporting. How do each of them differ?**(Reference: Matthew 26:36ff, Mark 14:32ff, Luke 22:39ff)**
3. The sermon text today was taken from the Gospel of **John, Chapter 17**. Read through John’s recap of Jesus prayer. **(Reference: John 17:1-26)** What do you notice that is significantly different from the other gospels?
4. The Pastor mentioned some of the things Jesus prayed **FOR** specifically for his disciples. Consider these topics Jesus mentioned in his prayer. How do you see each of them relating to our church?
 - *Jesus prayed for our protection **(Vs. 11)**
 - *Jesus prayed for us to have fullness of joy. **(Vs. 13)**
 - *Jesus prayed for our sanctification. **(Vs. 17-29)** What does “sanctification” mean?
 - *Jesus prayed for the unity of the church. **(Vs. 23b)**
5. However, there was one specific thing Jesus **WOULD NOT** pray for his disciples. What was it? **(Reference: Vs. 15a)** Summarize this in your own words.
6. How do you interpret Jesus refusal to pray this prayer? In light of that, we must have a mission for which we are left in this world! What might it be? **(Reference: Luke 19:10)**

Closing: Close by sharing pray requests. Also, everyone share the name of a friend. Pray for one other, your friends, and the requests that were shared. Go **SHARE JESUS!**