

“Eavesdropping on Jesus’ Prayer” Group Guide

Series: [RE]UNION

Passage: John 17:1-5

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ICEBREAKER:

Is there one day of your life so good, that you would relive it if you could? Share the memory with your group.

Eavesdropping on Jesus’ Prayer

John 17:1-5

THE KEY PRINCIPLE:

God permits what He hates to accomplish what He loves.

(Lam. 3:32-33; Eze. 33:11; John 11:33; Isa. 45:7; Gen. 50:20; 1 Cor. 15:57; Rom. 8:37)

Jesus’ prayer reveals ...

1. His **certainty** of the **existence** of God’s plan. (17:1)

The Point: He understood that His **suffering** was a part of God’s **predetermined plan** for His life. *(Acts 2:23; John 9:3)*

2. His **confidence** in the **goodness** of God’s plan. (17:1)

The Irony: He knew His greatest **honoring** would come through His greatest **agony** on the cross. *(Heb. 12:2)*

THE LESSON:

Viewing suffering from an **eternal perspective** allows us to see a **good purpose** for it.

(2 Cor. 4:17-18)

3. His **worthiness** of being **exalted** in God’s plan. (17:2-5; Phil. 2:8-11)

The Request: “**Reverse**” that “self-emptying” process and **restore** My heavenly splendor and magnificence.

“I want to come home and be with the One I love.”

THE KEY INSIGHT: Jesus’ glorified body will still **bear the marks of His suffering** so that He’ll be **honored** for all eternity for paying the price to heal all our wounds.

(John 20:27; Rev. 5:12; 1 Pet. 2:24; Jer. 30:17; Rom. 8:18; Phil. 3:21; Rev. 21:5)



Learning His Way

(Every week in these studies, we will ask questions about the Scriptures that try to help us Discover the unique Way of Jesus that is found in the text.)

1. Read John 17:1-5 in multiple translations. Now reread it in The Message paraphrase.
2. How often is the word “glory” used in these five verses? What is the significance of this repetition?
3. What does verse 3 say is eternal life? Discuss what this means.
4. In the weeks that lead up to this time, John records that Jesus spoke repeatedly about “the hour.” What does it tell you about God’s character displayed perfectly in Jesus?



Forming His Heart

(This is the part of the study where we work on our hearts. “How does my character need to grow and change because of this passage?”)

5. What is the physical posture of Jesus as He prays to God? As you consider this, what thoughts or feelings are stirred?
6. The translators have chosen the heading “Jesus prays for himself” for this section. How is His prayer different from how you might pray for yourself?



Joining His Mission

(This is the part of the study that we ask, “What would God want us to do because of this passage?”)

7. Read John 17:4. What was the attitude of Jesus as He suffered, but obediently carried out God’s plan? How might that inspire you?

8. “God permits what He hates to accomplish what He loves.” What is it that He loves? How might you align with His heart and love what He loves too?