

/// REMEMBER THIS

Intro: Before Jesus walked into the Garden, before the cross, before the silence of the tomb, He prayed. Not a hurried prayer. Not a desperate one. But a deliberate, history-shaping prayer. In John 17, Jesus lifts His eyes to the Father and speaks words that reveal His heart, His mission, and His love for His people. This prayer reminds us that eternal life isn't just about heaven someday—it's about knowing God right now. In a world driven by pressure, comparison, and constant noise, Jesus invites us to slow down, re-center our lives on Him, and trust that God's greatest work often happens through surrender, suffering, and faithful obedience.

Life Group Helps: Please take a few moments to read through the instructions below in preparation for the following group discussions and the use of the provided material.

Before the group meeting:

1. Spend time engaging the “Passages for Study/Discussion” with prayer.
2. Read through all the material.
 - + As you look through it, you will find helpful tips that will allow you to better facilitate the discussion.
 - + At times, CBC may provide sermon notes, and in the meantime, your sermon notes would be beneficial.
3. Think through ways you can help your group to apply what is being taught instead of “knowing” what's been taught.

At the Group Meeting:

1. Summarize/Read the “Intro”
2. Assign readers for the passages outlined in the “Passages for study” section.
3. Walk your group through each question (or as many that time will allow). Use the leader guide to facilitate the discussion.
4. Summarize the “Review & Reflection” section. Reading this aloud may be helpful.

5. Share your thoughts on how you and your group can begin to apply what was learned in this lesson. Help them formulate ideas for reading, studying, and meditating on the scriptures.

Bottom Line: We are protected, unified, and sent not to escape the world, but to live for God's glory within the world.

I. Main Passages for Study: John 17:1-19

Leader's tip: Reading the main passage is vital every week. Some folks in your Life Group (LG) may have missed Sunday, and they need a deeper context to understand where the discussion is going. We prefer that our LG's get into the Bible for themselves, too. Finally, don't think you need to get through all the questions. This is a guide, and the Holy Spirit and people's needs may dictate more time on one question or another, and therefore, you cannot discuss all the questions... and that is perfectly fine! Enjoy!

II. Discussion Questions

1. **Icebreaker: What's one moment, decision, or person that shaped who you are today?**
2. **If your life had a 'center' this past week, what was it—work, family, stress, God, something else? Why did you answer this way?**
3. **How would you describe the difference between knowing about God and truly knowing Him?**
 - + John 17:2-3; Jeremiah 9:23-24
4. **Do you currently feel pressure to rush something God may still be forming?**
 - + John 12:23; John 17:1; Psalm 27:14
5. **What are your thoughts about how Jesus prayed for himself, and he prayed for his disciples' protection, faith, and unity?**
 - + John 17:6-11; Hebrews 7:25
6. **In your own words, what is the difference between coming to Jesus to get better instead of coming to get closer to Christ? Why is one better/worse than the other?**

+ John 17:17

7. What most threatens unity in the church today (i.e., preferences, pride, fear, or something else)? Why do you believe that?

+ John 17:11, 21; Ephesians 4:1–6

8. What are you committing to think differently, do differently, or believe differently because of this week's discussion?

9. How can others pray for you this week?