



**Connect Group Discussion Guide**  
**Sunday Message - 8/9/20 | Scott Bates | John 17:1-26**

*NEW Redeems Our Story: New Prayer - Once I lived without direction; Now I live on purpose.*

**Key Scriptures:**

*Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

- John 16:32-33

*I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

- John 17:4-5

*All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.*

- John 17:10-11

*They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.*

- John 17:16-18

*O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.*

- John 17:25-26

**Message Highlights:**

- Running is exhausting and compounds our problems. Jesus wants us to find peace.
- Peace comes through the reality that Jesus has overcome the world.
- Eternal life is knowing God and His Son. That has less to do with knowledge and much more to do with relationship.
- Peace is not a lack of struggle. Peace is a sense of well-being that envelops you as you experience the presence of God in your life.
- God does not want us running around without purpose/direction.
- Jesus prayed for us. He asked His Father to remind us of our purpose (mission).
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- God does not make our decisions for us. He lays out a plan, through His Son, of unification and purpose. He leads, guides, counsels, pokes, prods, nudges.
- Jesus will continue to reveal God to the world through the community of believers.

#### **Conversation Starter:**

- Have you ever seen a day approaching that you knew could possibly change the course of your life? What was it? What did you do to prepare ahead of time?

#### **Discuss the Message:**

1. In John 17, Jesus prays for his disciples. Read through that prayer. What stands out to you? What seem to have been Jesus' greatest concerns for them?
2. In John 17:4, Jesus said to the Father, "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do." This was before he gave his life on the cross and rose from the dead. So, what "work" do you think Jesus was talking about in that prayer? What is the significance of Jesus seeing that as the work he was called to do?
3. What things in life can steal away our peace, if we allow it? What gives you peace (see Colossians 3:15-17)?
4. What is your purpose, your mission? Where do you find your purpose (see Ephesians 1:3-14)? What things can distract you from your purpose?
5. Does something have you scattered? Are you running from anything? Perhaps a relationship, a decision, a crisis?
6. Jesus prays for his disciples to be have unity in relationship and purpose. Who are you *with*? Where are you headed in life? Have you really answered those questions personally? Is there someone in your life that you need to encourage and challenge with those questions?

#### **Pray:**

- Pray for one another.

*Father, we know that you know all things. We can't see the future, but we know that you can. Holy Spirit, give us your peace. Help us to stop running from you when we face difficulties and uncertainty. Help us run to you instead. Thank you for the life your Son, Jesus gives. Thank you for the way he modeled a life of peace. He never rushed through life aimlessly, but lived on purpose. We want to be more like him. Help us to encourage and challenge one another to follow his example. May we lean into your wisdom, your guidance, and your love. Let us be a light to those around us who live in darkness, so that they can see you through us and find hope in your Son. Amen.*