

John 17 Family Devotional

Introduction

- Who are some of the people who pray for you?
- Who are some of the people you pray for?
- Do you know that Jesus prays for you? Does that surprise you? Why or why not?
- What do you think Jesus prays for when he prays for you?

In John 17, we get to listen in on a prayer Jesus prayed right before he was arrested and crucified. Take turns reading through it together.

Guide your children through the attached worksheet. Let them think through the answers even when it takes them time. You'll find a parent guide with additional talking points below.

John 17 Family Devotional Worksheet

Who did Jesus pray for?

1. _____ (v. 1-5)
2. _____ (v. 6-19)
3. _____ (v. 20-26)

What did he ask God for?

- v. 5 _____
- v. 11 & 15 _____
- v. 17 _____
- v. 23 _____

It's time to stop and look up a few vocabulary words! With your parent's help, go to www.dictionary.com and put these definitions in your own words:

GLORIFY _____

How many reasons can you think of in ONE MINUTE to praise and glorify God? Think of both who he IS and what he has DONE!

PROTECT _____

How does God protect us from the evil one? (v. 15)

SANCTIFY _____

How are we sanctified by the truth of God's word? (v. 17)

UNIFY _____

Why does God want all believers to have complete unity? (v. 23)

What are some ways you see the church uniting right now to show the world that God loves them in the midst of the coronavirus?

Is there another Christian right now towards whom you have bad feelings? Is there anyone you know who has bad feelings towards you? What do you need to do to make things right with them so you can enjoy the unity that Jesus is praying for you to have? Stop right now, pray, and then take action this week to restore unity in that relationship.

John 17 Family Devotional Worksheet (Parent Guide)

Who did Jesus pray for?

1. Himself (v. 1-5)
2. His disciples (v. 6-19)
3. All believers (v. 20-26)

What did he ask God for?

- v. 5 To glorify him with the glory he had before the world began
- v. 11&15 - To protect his followers from the evil one so that they may be “one” just as God is one
- v. 17 – To sanctify his followers by the truth (his word)
- v. 23 – To bring his followers to complete unity so that the world may know him & his love

Vocabulary words

Glorify: to honor with praise, admiration, and worship

Jesus, as the Son of God, had glory when he lived in heaven before he came to earth and lived here. He set aside this glory to become a man (Philippians 2:6-8). He receives glory for all that he did on earth, especially his sacrificial death and resurrection. Our purpose in life is to “glorify God and enjoy him forever” (Westminster Shorter Catechism), and there isn’t any greater joy in life than to fulfill God’s purpose for us!

Protect: to defend or guard from attack; to cover or shield from danger

Does God always keep us from experiencing bad things in this life? What is the biggest danger that we actually need to be protected from? (Eternal separation from God!) Jesus prays that God would protect us from the evil one, who seeks to keep us from God.

Sanctify: to make holy; set apart as sacred; to purify or free from sin

When you give your life to Jesus, God sets you apart. He cleanses you from sin right away, and then gradually over time as you trust and obey him, he makes you more and more like himself! As we read and listen to the truth of his Word, he shines a light on those areas of our hearts that aren’t like him yet, so that we can cooperate with the work he wants to do in us to change us.

Unify: to make “one”

Jesus prayed for perfect unity – the kind of unity that exists between God the Father and him. God the Father has loved Jesus forever, even before he created the world (v. 24). God also loves US with that same love (v. 23,26), and NOTHING can separate believers from God’s love (Romans 8:38-39). This is the kind of unity that we are supposed to have with all people who believe in Jesus. Why is this important? By our unity, we show those who do not believe in Jesus that God loves them and that he sent Jesus to be their Savior!

Wrap-Up

In John 17, Jesus prayed for: His glory, our protection, our sanctification, and our unity.

Is your life an answer to Jesus’ prayer?

- Does your life glorify God?
- How have you experienced God’s protection?
- Are you regularly reading or hearing God’s word so that you become more like Jesus?
- What’s one thing you can do to keep unity in your relationships other believers?

Memory Verse: “This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” John 17:3

What does this verse say that eternal life is?

Eternal life is having a relationship with God the Father and Jesus much like we have a relationship with anyone else.

In verse 24, Jesus expresses how much he wants his followers to BE with him and SEE his glory. He delights in us!

Do you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? If you do, then you have eternal life! If you don’t yet but would like to start a relationship with God, here’s what you need to know:

- *God is holy and perfect! He is the creator of all things. He created YOU in His image to be in relationship with Him forever.*
- *Have you ever done anything wrong? Everyone sins – disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God.*
- *Because God is holy, he must punish sin. No amount of good things we do can make up for the sin in our lives. We are not able to save ourselves from God’s punishment.*
- *Knowing that we could never save ourselves, God made a way for us!! He sent his Son Jesus to live a perfect life and then take the punishment we deserve by sacrificing his life on the cross for our sins. This is the best gift we could ever receive!!*

- *Everyone has a choice to make. They can either keep living for themselves and trusting in their own goodness, or they can turn from sin and self and put their trust in Jesus to (1) rescue them from sin and eternal death and (2) acknowledge Jesus as their Lord – the boss of their lives.*

If you would like to do that, you can pray a simple prayer like this:

I'm sorry for all the ways I have disobeyed you God.

Thank you for dying on the cross to take my punishment and rescue me from sin.

Please make me your child – I want to live for YOU now!

For more guidance on introducing your child to God and teaching them about God's big story, check out this free resource: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/leading-your-child-to-christ/>

You can also reach out to our children's pastor, Terry Allison (tallison@westshorefree.org) for a follow-up book to help you keep growing in your new faith in Jesus!