

# Discussion Questions

April 3, 2022

## God with Us: Our Lives Empowered by His Presence



1. Read Chapter 17 out loud. Try to read it with the emotion of Jesus as he gives His final Prayer to His Father before he goes to the garden. (You can break it into a few parts if reading as a group)

- What are the main things Jesus prays for in this prayer?
- Discuss what you can see regarding Jesus' relationship with His father through this prayer

2. Re-read 17:1.

- 8 times Jesus speaks of receiving Glory for the sake of his Father or giving glory to His Father in this chapter. What does it mean for Jesus to give glory to the Father and why do you think it is so important to Him?

3. Read John 17:3

- How does Jesus' definition of Eternal life compare to common Christian understandings of eternal life?
- What does it look like to experience Eternal Life here and now in our daily life?

4. Read John 17:15-18

- What does it mean for Christians to be "in the world?"
- What temptations have you faced to remove yourself from or not engage with "the world?"
- We have seen in chapter 14-17 that Jesus is constantly hammering home the necessity of His followers to reach the lost. Jesus shows this is absolutely central to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Discuss how central this been to your own understanding of what it means to be a Christian? Has it been a natural way of life? A guilt-induced response every now and then? A shameful omission? Avoided altogether?
- What specific steps are you taking or can you take to engage with those who have either rejected Jesus or do not know Him?

5. Prayerfully read Chapter 17 out-loud one more time. Then share what stood out to you the most in this second read through and why.



**John 17:9,13–18**

*My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you... Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.*

In John 17 the veil is drawn aside, and we are admitted with our great High Priest into "the holiest of all." Here we approach the secret place of the tabernacle of the Most High, therefore it behooves us to put off our shoes from off our feet, listening with humble, reverent and prepared hearts, for the place whereon we now stand is indeed holy ground.

Arthur Pink - Exposition of the Gospel of John, 1945

**John 17:1**

*After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you."*

Prayer is not the way to get God to do our will in heaven. Prayer is the way to get man to do God's will on earth. Once this is understood, you will find yourself praying in an entirely different manner. And that's what Jesus is doing here. "Glorify Me," He prays, "so that You might be glorified—even if that means that I will be pinned to the Cross of Calvary."

Jon Courson - Jon Courson's Application Commentary

**John 17:2–3**

*For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

**John 17:6–8**

*I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.*

**John 17:11–12a**

*Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me.*

**John 17:13–14**

*Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.*

**John 17:15-16**

*I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do.*

**John 17:17–18**

*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.*

**John 10:36a**

*..are you saying of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world,*

**Hagiázō:** to consecrate as being set apart of God and sent by Him for the performance of His will

The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament

**John 20:21**

*So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you; just as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*

**Send = apostéllō**

It is interesting to note that though Moses, Elijah, and Jonah all asked to be taken out of the world, not one of their requests was granted (see Numbers 11:15; 1 Kings 19:4; Jonah 4:3, 8). We need to ask ourselves honestly if we have functionally removed ourselves from the world. Christ prays that we will not.

Dr. Kent Hughes - John: That You May Believe