



Week 27
Discussion Questions

Text: John 17:1-26

Icebreaker: What is a spiritual gift God has produced in you lately for the benefit of his purposes?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. John 17 is called "the High-Priestly Prayer" in which Jesus prays to the Father before his arrest and crucifixion. The prayer has three general sections: Jesus prayer for himself, for his disciples, and for all future believers. Describe what he prays for in each section:
 - Prayer for Himself:
 - Prayer for Disciples:
 - Prayer for future believers:
3. What does Jesus' prayers for himself and for us teach us about his nature and character?
4. While the Bible is for us, it was not originally written to us. However, future believers, including each of us, are named specifically in Jesus' prayer in John 17. You were on Jesus' mind before he went to the cross. What is it he wanted most for you?
5. How does Jesus define eternal life? How does this definition shape what you believe about the nature of eternal life?
6. In v. 11 and again in v. 20-21, Jesus prays for the unity of the believers and compares this unity to Jesus' unity with the Father. What should this kind of unity look like among believers? (Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Romans 12:3-21; Ephesians 4:1-16).
7. What makes unity difficult in the church? What causes disunity among believers?
8. Share a time when you experienced unity among the body of believers in a time when disunity would have been easier.
9. Jesus says that he has given his glory for the purpose of unity. Unity is important in the kingdom, and we should seek the unity of the Spirit. What is one area of your life presently in the body of believers that you could actively seek unity and how could you do it?
10. The word *know/known* is used nine times throughout John 17. Describe what it is like to *be known* by someone else. How does this experience translate to your relationship with God, *knowing* and *being known* by him?
11. Spend some time praying, specifically for unity in the body of believers: in your group, in our church, in the church in our community, in the church in America, and in the global church.