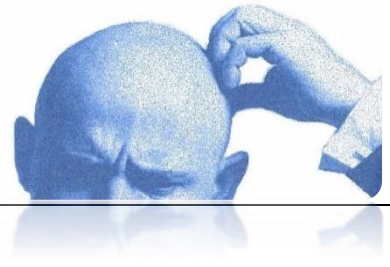


## Jesus Prays for his Disciples

# Small Group Questions

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*The following questions are intended to start conversations. Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.*

*Our preaching series during the season of Lent will pick up stories in John 15-19 (Light in Dark Places). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories **BEFORE** you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.*

- Read **John 17:1-26**. What strikes you about this prayer?

*Notice that this prayer is structured in three parts: Jesus prays for himself (vs. 1-5), for his disciples (vs. 6-19), and for all believers (vs. 20-26).*

- What did Jesus mean when he asked the Father to glorify him (v. 1)? How does this request challenge our understanding of glory, especially in light of the cross?
- How does Jesus define eternal life (v. 3)? How does this definition challenge our understanding of eternal life?
- What is the focus of Jesus' prayer for his disciples?
- What does this teach us about prayer?
- Notice that his disciples are to be "in the world" (v. 11, 15) but "not of the world" (v. 16). What does this mean? What might this look like? What makes this difficult?
- What does it mean to be "sanctified by the truth" (v. 16)?
- Jesus sends his disciples into the world "as you have sent me." (v. 18). How did the Father send the Son? What are the implications for us?
- Of all the things Jesus could have prayed, why does he pray for unity (v. 21-23)?
- What does this tell us about God's vision for the church?