

# Jesus' Prayer

## Lesson 19

## John 17:20-26

### Opener

Today we are going to finish studying Jesus' prayer. Two weeks ago we learned that the first thing Jesus prayed for was for everyone to have eternal life. And we learned that eternal life is knowing God and Jesus. Last week we read that Jesus prayed for his disciples. He prayed that they would be unified and that God would protect them while he was not with them. This week we will learn the last thing that Jesus prayed for before he was arrested.

### Scripture

Read John 17:20-23

### Discussion

**Question: Who did Jesus pray for?**

Jesus prays for those who will believe in Him through the message of the disciples.

**Question: Who is Jesus referring to?**

Jesus is referring to us. We are the ones who have believed in Jesus through the work of the disciples through the generations.

Do you realize what this means? Jesus, the Son of God prayed for you and me about 2000 years ago. Can you imagine how much God and His Son loves us? When he was suffering the most, He prayed for us. He loves us more than anyone else can. How many people worried about you years before you existed? God created us and knew everything that would happen to us, so Jesus prayed for us.

**Question: What did He pray in the first part of verse 21?**

His prayer was that we would be one as He and His father are one. There is only one God and one Savior and everyone who believes in Him are part of His family. God wants His family to be united.

**Question: What is His prayer for us in the last part of verse 21?**

Jesus asked that we would be in Him, so the world would believe that God sent Him. John 15 is a lesson we studied a few weeks ago. In that chapter, we read that Jesus is the vine

and we are the branches. The Bible says apart from Jesus we can't do anything (John 15:5) It also says that whoever remains in Christ will bear much fruit. So His prayer here a few chapters later refers to the same thing. Jesus began with 12 disciples that would testify about Jesus to the people. Now, if we have accepted Christ, we are part of His family. Our job is to go and take the Word of God to the world where there are many who don't know Christ.

**Question: In verse 23, what does Jesus want the world to know?**

Jesus wants the world to know the love of Christ. God's love is greater than any other love we can experience in our lives. His love is the reason we do what we do. God loves His Son and we can understand this love, because we also love our children. But God also loves us so much that He gave us His Son before we loved Him. Jesus took the punishment for our sins (which is eternal separation from God) that we deserve. This is a love that our minds can't understand, because none of us have sacrificed our children for people who don't love us and do bad things. Look at how great God's love for us is!

**Read John 17:24-26**

**Question: What is the last reason Jesus gives to explain to the Father what He wants for those who will believe?**

The life and actions that motivated Jesus to go to the cross voluntarily to take away our sins come from a desire He has. This desire is that we would be with Him and seek His glory. He loves us so much that it doesn't matter what we have done. To Him it does not matter if we have lived destructive lives. His biggest desire is that we are with Him. And He knew that if there wasn't a perfect sacrifice, we couldn't be with Him. Our sins keep us from Him. So He came and died and suffered for us. And now all we have to do to be sure we'll be with Him some day is ask His forgiveness for our sins and ask Him to come into our life. In other words, we need to accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord. When Jesus comes into our lives, He will change us, because He doesn't want us to continue to live a destroyed life. Like you love your children and want the best for them, God loves us and wants the best for us. When we let Him in our lives, He will take control and begin to lead us in the right way so we won't do more damage. So when we pray and accept Jesus, we are saying that we want Jesus to be our Savior and Lord.

**Application**

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**When are some times in your life that you have doubted God's love for you?**

**How do these verses help you understand the love of God?**

**How will God's love change your life?**

**If you are a believer (someone who has accepted Christ as your Savior and Lord and have asked Him into your life, does your life show the world that God has sent His Son here?**

**Why or why not?**

**What can you do this week to remain in God?**