

Water of Life Community Church

PRAYING POWERFUL PRAYERS

WEEK 1

JOHN 17:1-26

LEADER NOTES

Your Participants will only see the text noted in **bold**.

ICE BREAKER

- As a child, were you taught any prayers to memorize and/or recite? Do you still know them and/or recite them today?
- When you think of "The Lord's Prayer," what comes to mind?

We all have different experiences with prayer, many of which come from our upbringing and denominations of churches we have been a part of. "The Lord's Prayer" may be thought of as something recited, in a very reverent, ritualistic way, possibly in Catholic or Mainline traditions. Some may even correlate it to prayers on "the big screen," depicted as a prayer to recite before passing away or when in a dire situation.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for prayer and the many examples in Your Word where Your Son, Jesus, taught us not just words to speak but how to position our hearts towards Yours. Holy Spirit, illuminate what You would have us learn together in our small group today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WORSHIP

If you're looking for help with worship, head to <https://vimeo.com/album/2977729> and choose a couple of the songs you find there. The password is wolsg. Worship is also available at the beginning of each teaching video on our YouTube channel at mywolgroup.com.

INTRODUCTION

As Jesus walked this earth, He always had the condition of our hearts in mind. We can pray elaborate, fancy prayers on the outside while being disconnected in our hearts and minds, but that is not the Lord's plan for us. Jesus' examples of prayer are much more a movement of heart than a movement of mind. Jesus loves us so much and desires our prayer life to be a constant, alive connection to Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

1. READ JOHN 17:1-5.

- a. Should we pray for ourselves? If so, how should we pray, what should the goal be?
- b. Pastor taught us we do not need clichés, but lots of heart and honesty. What are some powerful prayers you pray for yourself daily? What are some “takeaways” from this week's sermon that you plan to implement when praying for yourself?

We absolutely should pray for ourselves and the ultimate goal should be that we bring glory to Him in all we do and say. Jesus prayed for Himself, so should we! Some may feel praying for ourselves is selfish or self-centered, but when our feet hit the floor every morning we will be faced with many choices and decisions that could be life changing, not just for ourselves but to all those we come into contact with.

- c. How many times is “glory” referenced in verses 1-5?
- d. What do you think the importance of the word glory is here?

Depending on the version you are reading, the word glory is used up to eight times in these five verses! Glory is a magnified topic for a very good reason. Keeping our eyes and hearts laser focused on Jesus may not always make us famous, but it does position us to look more and more like Him, which brings glory and honor to the King of Kings. By doing what God asks us, we bring Him joy!

2. READ JOHN 17:6-19.

- a. As we pray for others, what are the four categories in which these verses lead us to pray?

b. What does it mean to pray for protection from “the world”?

Verses 6-19 lead us to pray specifically for others to stay in Jesus (referring to their nature or character in Christ), to stay in fellowship (referring to unity in Christ), for protection (from the world or anything in the opposite direction of God’s will and from Satan), and for equipping and sanctification.

The world is the word that refers to the way humanity organizes itself without God. However, we live in the world, so we pray against being swept into thinking about things without God. There is a temptation to pray “escapism” prayers (Lord, come quickly, we want out of here!) But we need to remember there is work to be done here; many still do not know the love of Jesus! As Christians, we are not to isolate ourselves, instead to insulate ourselves. As a visual, think of a cooler/ice chest/thermos, padded and girded to withstand the elements coming at it from the outside.

c. What is equipping?

d. What is sanctification?

The definition of equipping is to supply with the necessary items for a particular purpose; to prepare (someone) mentally for a particular situation or task. And the definition of sanctification is the action of making or declaring something holy; the action or process of being freed from sin or purified.

We are equipped when we allow ourselves to learn and then be released with the purpose of both heart and mind transformation. We are sanctified when we choose to be set apart and used for God’s purpose. Jesus says there are two ways to be sanctified, one is by letting God’s word change and grow us and the other is by Jesus’ sacrifice.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- **How would you describe your current prayer life?**
- **Are there any areas of your prayer life that could use refreshing or even restructuring?**

There are really no right or wrong ways to pray; Our Heavenly Father is always listening, always yearning for time with His children. He loves when we talk to Him. Additionally, it's important that we study God's word and allow Jesus' teachings and examples to be like a guide for us. Doing this can give our prayers a "power boost"!

GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- The Disciples asked Jesus how to pray. Do you do the same?

RESPOND

- Take time this week to reflect on this week's message and ask Jesus to teach you how to deepen your prayer life.

Also ... Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "eDevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week's theme.

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 6:6

"But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

COMMENTARY

Our Lord began this prayer by praying for Himself, but in praying for Himself, He was also praying for us. "A prayer for self is not by any means necessarily a selfish prayer," wrote Dr. R. A. Torrey, and an examination of Bible prayers shows that this is true. Our Lord's burden was the glory of God, and this glory would be realized in His finished work on the cross. The servant of God has every right to ask his Father for the help needed to glorify His name. "Hallowed be thy name" is the first petition in the Lord's Prayer ([Matt. 6:9](#)), and it is the first emphasis in this prayer.

For further commentary visit: <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/wiersbe-be-bible-study/toc/>

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