



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Three

We continue the focus on what it means to live out this command and promise from Jesus. Jesus said, “in this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world.” (John 16.33) This week, Pastor Mark Youngman shared about what Jesus’ promise means for our messy relationships. In this world, trouble includes relationships that become even more complicated in seasons of stress (like 2020/2021) but Jesus has overcome it all!

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

*Jesus,
Today I speak your name over the messiness of my life.
Not just the laundry and dishes,
But the relationships that mean so much to me, but have become complicated.
I pray for a saving knowledge of the Father through Jesus Christ,
I pray for protection,
I pray for unity in Christ.
Amen.*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 16.33-17.1

*In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16.33
After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: John 17.1*

- It is a gift to have the scripture broken down into chapters and verses. However that is not how it was originally written. The end of John 16 and the start of John 17 clearly flow together. After Jesus tells us to take heart in the midst of troubles, he prays for us! Jesus didn’t just remove all of our problems by overcoming the world—he gave us a way to be confident even when we

experience trouble. He doesn't take our troubles lightly, he takes them seriously and prays that we would live differently because of his overcoming.

- *As you pray, remember that Jesus prays for you. You are not alone.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 17.1-5

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

- Jesus prayed that he would be glorified knowing that it would ultimately bring glory to God the Father. He prays for the eternal life of his disciples which comes through knowing God. When Jesus seeks glory it is for the sake of his disciples. In verse 5, it is clear that the glory Jesus is asking for has already been his...since before creation. So the eternal life he prays for was established at the beginning of time.
- *Thank God for the long view of our salvation., and that you might see the glorified Jesus in this life.*

WEDNESDAY: JOHN 17.6-12

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

- Jesus prayed for the protection of his followers. He knew that he was about to return to the Father and would be no longer able to protect them by his physical presence. But the power of his name would remain with them (us). Has the name of Jesus ever given you a sense of protection?
- *Pray for the assurance of protection that the name of Jesus brings. Pray his name over your messy relationships.*

THURSDAY: JOHN 17.20-26

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

- Jesus set the stage for generations to begin to grasp the nature of God. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son. They are one. The very nature of God demonstrates what unity can look like. We don't have to be exactly the same as our friend and neighbor in order to have unity with them. Jesus wants us to have complete unity. He prays for it. Are we living it out?
- *Pray for the path to unity to be revealed in your messy relationships.*

FRIDAY: MATTHEW 5.43-48

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^[1] and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- Some relationships are toxic. Sometimes the enemy will not relent and you have to stay separate from them. But you can still pray for them. Some of the most beautiful examples of Christian love take place through prayer and forgiveness.
- *Pray for your enemies and those who persecute you.*

SATURDAY: GALATIANS 6.2

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- When we pray for one another and carry each other's burdens the walls that divide us can begin to come down. This actually fulfills the law of Christ. What walls cause division and separation in the world around you?
- *Pray for the burdens of those around you. What can you offer to carry for them?*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Practice praying for your messy relationships. It takes practice, and Jesus gives us a model. So write out your prayer for a person or group of people that God places on your heart today.

Heavenly Father,

I lift up _____ to you now.

Release me from my desire to fix this relationship. Instead, I pray that they would come to know you more deeply in these ways

I pray that you would protect them from these dangers

I pray for our unity in Christ

Amen