



WEEKLY STUDY

Week 5

Pastor Gary gave a powerful message on prayer to round out this series on the truth and power of Jesus' words. He shared with us a long section of prayer from Jesus recorded in John 17. Through prayer we can not only survive but thrive as followers of Jesus. It is a key part of how we abide with him. So consider this week, how are you abiding with Jesus? Talk to the Jesus who has been praying for you.

Peace of Christ,
Dr. Mark Youngman
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions 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 and follow the daily prayer prompt. You might also pray this prayer.

Thank you Jesus for praying for me. I am one of those who came to believe through the message of the first disciples. May you be glorified in my life today and always. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: 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.”

- Even when Jesus prays for himself, he does so in a way that is counter to the typical power structures of this world. He prays that he would be glorified so that his life and work would glorify God. His request is all about the disciples he had been walking with and those who would come to believe through their testimony. Look up Genesis 12:2. What does the phrase *blessed to be a*

blessing mean? In your own prayer life, do you notice a distinction between praying for yourself and praying for others? How could Jesus' words here help to bridge the two?

- *God, direct my heart and my prayers today. May any gain or glory in my life point others to You.*

TUESDAY: 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."

- This portion of Jesus' prayer reveals the closeness between God the Father and the Son. Jesus gave all credit to the Father for giving him the disciples and for providing the words that they accepted. All the Father has, the Son has also. As Jesus prepared to leave the earthly ministry among the disciples, he prayed that they might know the same unity that Jesus has with the Father. The words between them would give life to others. All they had would belong to one another. That kind of radical unity was going to get them into trouble and so Jesus prayed for their protection. Do any of your relationships reflect the unity Jesus prayed for? Do you see places where disunity disrupts others' ability to hear and obey the words Jesus passed on to his disciples?
- *Jesus, thank you for praying for protection for those who follow you. May I live out the unity you modeled for us.*

WEDNESDAY: JOHN 17.13-19

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."

- There is a powerful distinction between those who carry around the word of God and those whom the world loves. We often want to get out of places where we are hated. It can be draining to always have to hold your position in a world that hasn't tasted the full measure of the joy of Christ. But Jesus didn't offer to build his disciples immediate, safe passage to heaven. Following Jesus is not escaping the world. Following Jesus is recognizing that we are not of the world, but for now, we live in it. Not only do we live *in* the world, we are sent *into* the world as those being made more and more into the image of Jesus Christ. What does it mean for your daily life to live in the world but to recognize that you are not of the world?
- *Holy God, some days I need the reminder that I am not alone in this world. Knowing that you have sent me into the world helps me to avoid taking on the ways of the world. Thank you.*

THURSDAY: JOHN 17.20-23

“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.”

- *“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,”* That’s us! We stand on the shoulders of people of faith in various regions of the world throughout the centuries. And if we could trace it all the way back, we would see that we stand on the shoulders of average, working class followers of Jesus in first century Israel. The glory that Jesus prayed for has been given to us in a flow of a movement that has not yet displayed the unity he prayed for. What would unity among believers look like? Pray that the world will know Jesus through our unity.
- *God, I pray for the unity your Son desires for us. I want the whole world to know that he is the Son of God who takes away the sins of the world.*

FRIDAY: JOHN 17.24-26

“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 desires for those who follow him to be with him and to see his glory. That happened through his appearances to them after the resurrection. They saw his glory! Jesus’ mission was to make God known to his disciples, and through them to the whole world. Do you see yourself as a part of that mission today? To whom are you making God known? Who makes God known to you?
- *Jesus, you are the image of the invisible God. Thank you for making God visible to me. Everywhere I go I see you!*

SATURDAY: HEBREWS 7.24-26

Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶ *Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.*

- When Jesus prays for us, he intercedes on our behalf, perpetually connecting us to God the Father. The language of the priesthood would really have connected with a Jewish audience. They were used to having a set aside person of the priesthood who was responsible for pleading to God on their behalf. Jesus stepped into that role and made possible a whole new relationship with God. When you pray “In Jesus’ Name” do you picture this priestly role? Spend time thanking Jesus for making communication with God the Father possible for us.
- *Jesus, as you have prayed for me, I lift up my prayers to the Father. Thank you for giving your life that I might enter into your eternal life.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Gary shared a line from a song of his youth.

Somebody prayed for me, had me on their mind, took the time to pray for me

I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed for me.

My mother prayed for me...

My father prayed for me...

My sister prayed for me...

My brother prayed for me...

The preacher prayed for me...

Jesus prayed for me...

- Have you had an experience of knowing that someone was praying for you in a specific way? Did you see the impact of their prayers?
- What does it mean that Jesus is praying for you? Is that an easy or difficult concept to grasp or gift to accept?