



## Reading through the New Testament—Week 17

April 30-May 6

Reading Plan available on  
YouVersion Bible App  
(QR Code).



### ***Becoming*** more like Jesus—growing in His Word

This weekend's message will be based on John 17, a prayer spoken by Jesus in three parts: Jesus prays for Himself in vv. 1-5, Jesus prays for His disciples in vv. 6-19, and Jesus prays for all believers (including us) in vv. 20-25.

In the first section, Jesus prays to be glorified which will be the result of His impending crucifixion. Here Jesus looks past the agony of the cross to His future glory where He will be, "seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (see Hebrews 12:1-2.)

In the second section, what a close personal prayer Jesus speaks on behalf of His disciples. He prays that they would hold on to His truth, will be protected, and kept safe.

In the third section, Jesus prays for unity for all God's people. His prayer is not for "uniformity," but rather for "unity." How important it is how we relate to each other because the world is watching – ". . . so that the world may believe that You have sent me" (v. 21).

As you read Jesus' prayer this week, what part of that prayer speaks to you?

One author has suggested that the words of John 17 are actually "the Lord's Prayer" because this prayer is His very own words, and what we usually call the Lord's Prayer could be called the "disciples prayer," because those words were spoken in response to the disciple's question, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:2). What do you think about that?

# This Week's Sermon Outline

## "Circling in Prayer"

*John 17:20-26*

### "The Circle Maker"

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message." (John 17:20)

D\_\_\_\_\_ a spirit of unity

"... that all of them may be one, Father . . . that they may be one as we are one – I in them and You in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity." (John 17:21-23)

P\_\_\_\_\_ the world

"... so that the world may believe that You have sent me . . . Then the world will know that You sent me and have loved them even as You have loved me . . . Righteous Father, though the world does not know You, I know You, and they know that You have sent me." (John 17:21, 23, 25)

I\_\_\_\_\_

I\_\_\_\_\_

V\_\_\_\_\_

I\_\_\_\_\_

P\_\_\_\_\_






E\_\_\_\_\_ God's love

"Then the world will know that You sent me and have loved them even as You have loved me . . . 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." (John 17:23, 26)

What are you circling in prayer in your life?

## New Testament in a Year—April 30-May 6

John

Chapter 13  14  15  16  17 

### **Additional Reflections** from this week's reading

**Chapter 13.** What does Jesus know that escapes the disciples' attention (vv. 1, 3, 11)? In your spiritual life, who is one person who has demonstrated what it means to "wash feet"? What did he or she do?

**Chapter 14.** Put Jesus' statement in 14:6-7 in your own words. What is the force of the claims Jesus makes here?

How are the disciples to show love to each other (13:14)? To Jesus (14:15)? Why is this idea repeated four times (vv. 15, 21, 23, 24)?

**Chapter 15.** How is love the essential dynamic of the Christian life? How do verses 12-13 take Jesus' command to love even further than 13:34-35? How does our relationship with Jesus change once we start practicing this example of love?

**Chapter 16.** How would you paraphrase the three goals of the Spirit's work (vv. 8-11)? What other roles does the Spirit play (14:16-17, 26-27; 16:7-11, 13-15)?

## ***Belonging*** in Community

Connect groups are communities—a group of Christians who meet together regularly—where we intentionally share in our faith walk. Connection is created through commitment and presence in fellowship, discussion, and prayer.

- Begin your time together by following up on anything that was shared during your last time together.
- Take some time to share any reflections of aha's you had from your reading.

This week we will experience a practice called *Lectio Divina*. This is an ancient Latin phrase, first used by St. Benedict in the sixth century. It means “spiritual reading.” It’s a way of reading Scripture slowly and prayerfully, listening for God’s word to you. Find somewhere quiet and distraction-free and go through the steps out loud.

First, open your Bible to John 17:20-26. You can instead choose — a Psalm, a portion of the Gospels, or a section of an epistle (another word for letter, such as Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, etc.).

Take a few deep breaths. Then:

- Read — Slowly and prayerfully. Pay special attention to any words or phrases or ideas that jump out to you, or that move you emotionally or deeply resonate.
- Reflect — Reread the passage again, slowly. This time, pause over the word(s) or phrase(s) that were highlighted to you during your first reading. Meditate on them. Turn them over in your mind. Savor them.
- Respond — Pray your impressions back to God. You can use your own words or simply pray the text directly to God.
- Rest — Take a few minutes in silence to breathe deeply and rest in God’s loving word to you.

Share your impressions with one another and pray them together to God.

## ***Blessing*** the World

### Praying for Our Neighbors

Last week, hopefully, you thought about three people that God has placed in your life to be His hands and feet to. This week, spend 5 minutes in prayer for each of those individuals or families. If you aren't sure how to pray for them you here is a suggestion:

- Grab a notecard
- On the top of the card write the person's name
- Under their name write down: Relationship, Health, Vocation
- Spend time prayer for each of those areas in their life
- Jot notes about what God brings to mind as you are praying
- End your prayer time with asking for God's will to be done in that person's life