

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 06.25.2023

SAFE, SENT & SANCTIFIED – John 17:6-19

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us, “Today, we are going to focus on the section of the prayer where Jesus prays for His disciples. He makes it clear who He’s praying for in verse 9 when He says, ‘I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given Me.’ That doesn’t mean that we should never pray for the world. On another occasion Jesus instructed His disciples to ‘pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest.’ {Luke 10:2} We are obviously called to pray for the lost. However, on this occasion, Jesus focused His prayer on the eleven guys surrounding Him who He had just spent the last 3 ½ years with. We know them as the disciples. Before you check out and assume that this part of the prayer doesn’t apply to you, remember that the word ‘disciple’ simply means learner, apprentice, or follower. If you are a follower of Jesus, that makes you a disciple. So, what did Jesus pray for His disciples? He asked the Father to keep them safe, to send them out, and to set them apart.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Daniel’s sermon?
2. Do you think most Christians are prepared to fight spiritual battles? Why or why not? Why do you think this is the case?

We may be skeptical about others’ prayers for us, or we may depend on those prayers often. Wherever we fall on that spectrum, we often forget that Jesus is interceding on our behalf right now.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 17:6-11

Jesus prayed for His disciples. In what has been called His high priestly prayer, Jesus prayed that the disciples might experience the oneness He had with the Father. Jesus did not need to pray aloud for the Father’s sake but for the disciples to know His heart as He prayed for them. Verses 6-11 include the acknowledgment of the Father’s gifts, the Son’s actions, and the disciples’ responses.

1. Jesus said His disciples knew certain things about God because of Jesus. What are some things you know about God because of Jesus?

Jesus had revealed the Father to the men the Father had given Him. No one can know God except as the Son reveals Him. Jesus is God in human flesh. Because He is, He reveals God’s nature and purpose to redeem people through faith in Jesus.

2. What two things did Jesus pray for His disciples?
3. What did Jesus mean when He prayed that we would be one as He and the Father are one?
4. Why do you think he prayed for unity?

“PROMISES” in 2023

The world would reject the disciples as it had rejected Jesus. Thus, He prayed that the Father would protect them by the power of God’s name—His being or nature—and that they might be one as Jesus and the Father are one. Their unity would enhance their witness to the world.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 17:12-19

1. What are some specific things Jesus indicated in His prayer that He wanted for His followers?
2. What are ways you have experienced God’s protection against the Evil One?
3. In what ways does Jesus’ prayer encourage you as a Christ-follower?

Jesus specifically prayed that believers would be protected from the Evil One and the influences of a godless world (vv. 15-16); believers would be sanctified by the truth (v. 17); believers would be sent into the world (v. 18).

4. Why didn’t Jesus pray that they would be taken from the world?

Jesus did not pray that God would take the disciples out of the world. Jesus had said He soon would depart from the world but that the disciples would remain in it. He knew the same society that would crucify Him would reject and persecute His followers. Yet they could not accomplish His mission if they were removed from the world. Their faithful testimony about Jesus would be the only way lost people could hear about salvation through Him. Jesus’ plan was not to take believers out of the world but to reach the world through them.

5. How was Jesus’ mission for His disciples described in verses 16-18?

Jesus stressed the nature of the disciples’ mission in the world. He was sending them into the world even as the Father had sent the Son into the world. Jesus was sending them as the Father’s emissaries into an alien environment to witness about redemption in Christ. The disciples were to continue the same mission on which the Father had sent Jesus: to seek to persuade people to accept God’s grace in Jesus.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Jesus managed to live in this world without becoming part of it. He embraced sinners without ever partaking in their sin. He earned the reputation of being the friend of tax collectors and sinners and simultaneously earned the reputation of being a holy man. He was the friend of sinners and the friend of God. People who were nothing like Him, really liked Him. And He liked people who were nothing like Him. How did Jesus manage to do that? By never losing sight of His mission. Jesus lived His whole life on mission. He referred to that mission on several occasions. He said that He came, ‘to heal the sick, release the captives, proclaim the good news, and rescue sinners.’ Now He turns to His disciples and says, ‘Just as the Father sent Me, I’m sending you.’ We are to carry on that mission mindset with us in our lives.

1. In what ways does Jesus’ prayer in John 17 change your view of prayer? How does it change your hope?
2. In what ways should our confidence be strengthened knowing that Jesus is praying for us?
3. What is most difficult for you in admitting your complete dependency on God? How is prayer fundamentally about such a recognition?
4. When you find yourself in a hopeless situation, how does it affect your prayer life? How does it affect your dependence on Jesus’ prayer for you?

“PROMISES” in 2023

PRAYER – Spend some time thanking God for Jesus’ intercessory prayers on our behalf. Thank Him for the hope we have, even when we do not know what to pray. Ask God to align our prayers with those of Jesus, that we might be most concerned about His purposes for His kingdom and our lives.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” {Colossians 3:16}