



Digging Deeper

Week 8

Encountering Christ

Video Observation (20 Minutes)

1. **JESUS PRAYS “GOD GIVE THEM _____.”**
“I’M NOT ASKING YOU TO TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WORLD BUT TO KEEP THEM SAFE FROM THE EVIL ONE.” JOHN 17:15
2. **JESUS PRAYS, “GOD GIVE THEM _____.”**
“MY PRAYER FOR ALL OF THEM IS THAT THEY WILL BE OF ONE HEART AND MIND JUST AS YOU AND I ARE, FATHER.” JOHN 17:21
3. **JESUS PRAYS, “GIVE THEM _____.”**
“I’M COMING TO YOU NOW BUT I PRAY THESE THINGS WHILE I’M STILL IN THE WORLD SO THAT THESE FOLLOWERS CAN HAVE ALL OF MY JOY IN THEM.” JOHN 17:13
4. **JESUS PRAYS “GOD GIVE THEM _____.”**
“MAKE THEM PURE AND HOLY BY TEACHING THEM YOUR WORDS OF TRUTH.” JOHN 17:17
5. **JESUS PRAYS, “GOD GIVE THEM A _____.”**
“IN THE SAME WAY THAT YOU GAVE ME A MISSION IN THE WORLD, I GIVE THEM A MISSION IN THIS WORLD.” JOHN 17:18

Opening

Who was it that shared their faith in Jesus with you which started you on the path of believing?

Discussion (20 Minutes) Read John 17:1-26

- 1) The night before Jesus died; he said a prayer for you. In Romans 8:34 it also says, “Christ died and was raised to life and now He’s at the right side of God speaking to him for us.” Wow Jesus not only prayed for us at one of the most intense times of His life, He is still our advocate in heaven talking to God on our behalf right now. What does this say about his care for us? How does knowing God is our advocate empower us to live a godly life today?
- 2) **Jesus prayed for our protection** in the world not that we would be taken out of the world or that we would get a perfect life. As Rene said in the video “Protection means that knowing that God is there to strengthen and help us while we live in this imperfect world.” Jesus is praying right now that you will have protection from the Evil One. How have you experienced in your own life?

- 3) **Jesus prays for our unity.** He prayed that believers would be one in heart and mind like He and the Father. In John 13:35, He said “This is how everyone will recognize you are my disciples. When they see the love that you have for each other.” Jesus is praying for unity in your relationships right now, even the ones you struggle with the most. But he needs our cooperation.

Consider the following introspective questions. How do you resist God’s call to be unified? Do you resist the influence of others? Do you criticize more than build up? Do the people in your life see you as an advocate or an enemy?

What can you do to cooperate with God’s plan for unity in your relationships?

- 4) **Jesus prayed for our joy.** Describe what joy looks like in the life of a Christian? What hinders you from experiencing all of the joy of the Lord?
- 5) **Jesus prayed for our purity.** In John 17:17, Jesus gives the answer to staying pure. He prays “God make them pure and holy by teaching them your words of truth.” Like a TV, our mind can tune into a hundred different channels. We have to strategically decide to keep my mind on the pure channel. And when the channel switches to the angry channel or the lust channel or bitterness channel we have to choose to let God’s truth redirect our thoughts. What is the correlation that you have found in your own life between God’s words of truth (Bible) and purity?
- 6) **Jesus prayed for our mission.** He prayed that we would have a mission just as He had one. Then the world would know that God sent Jesus and He loves them as much as He loves His son. Jesus loves you and He loves every person you meet just as much. That is why He wants to us to spread the word. What is your formal and informal mission? This Easter season, who in your immediate family, extended family, community and world has God called you to be an ambassador to?

In preparation for Easter

Read John chapters 14-20. Consider watching an Easter story movie like the passion of Christ.