



PERSONAL/GROUP STUDY

WEEK 8: JOHN 17

Warm Up #1: What examples of unity and disunity have you seen in our world in recent months?

Warm Up #2: What attempts (e.g. Gal Gadot “Imagine”) have you see to bring greater unity? Did they work?

STUDY

1) Read v1-5. What stands out to you from these words of Jesus? What questions or observations do you have?

2) Read v6-10. What do you find most amazing or surprising from these verses? (*for more about our pre-existent relationship with the Father, see John 6:44, Ephesians 1:4, 2 Thess. 1:4-5*) What similarities do you notice between these words and those from v1-5?

3) Read v11-12. Here we find Jesus’ prayer, his greatest desire for his disciples. What is the nature and purpose of the “protection” Jesus is asking the Father for?

4) Read v14-19. "Sanctify" means to set apart, devote, make holy, purify, or consecrate. What does it mean to be sanctified by God's truth (v17) and by Jesus' sanctifying of himself (v19)? What (if anything) does a person need to do in order for this to happen to them?

5) Read v20-23. Now Jesus prays for us! Again, what similarities do you notice between Jesus' words here and in v1-5 and v6-10? To what extent do these words represent the actual reality of Christians up to today?

6) Read v24-26. Jesus here talks of a longing that won't be fulfilled here on earth. What difference does this hope make to our experience of life now?

Interlude: Did the Father answer Jesus' prayer? What makes this prayer different than other human desires for, or attempts at, greater unity amongst people?

7) Read v13. Jesus says here that he wants the disciples to hear this prayer "so that they may have the full measure of joy within them". What joy comes (for them and for us) just by hearing these words of Jesus?

BRING IT HOME

- Share a moment (e.g. in music, nature, human behaviour) that gave you a taste/glimpse of perfect unity and harmony. How can you relate that experience to the reality Jesus speaks of here?
- In practical ways, how can you live out the words of Jesus' prayer, in terms of your relationship with God and your relationship with others?