

# ATTENDED TABLES

vGROUP  
STUDY

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At the Table: vGroup Study

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# CAN I PRAY FOR YOU?

This week we are concluding our At The Table series. Last week we looked at how Jesus gives us hope and peace. This week, we are going to look at Jesus' prayer in John 17:1–26.

*<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

John 17:1–5

- What do you imagine when you think of the glory of God? Is it something beautiful or something terrible to behold or something else?
- What did Jesus mean when he said, “the hour has come”? (hint: think of where Jesus is headed, and what will happen to him when he is delivered over to the Romans)
- When we think of God being glorified, do we think of the cross? Why or why not?

Over 2,000 years before Jesus prayed this prayer, Moses asked to see the face of God (Exodus 33:18). “Please, show me your glory,” he asked. God replied, “I will make my goodness pass before you, but you cannot see my face, for no man can see me and live.” So God hid Moses in the cleft of a mountain side so that he might be protected from the glory of God as God passed by. As he passed by, God spoke to Moses about his compassion and mercy. In the Gospel of John, Jesus prays that God's goodness, compassion, and mercy be revealed to those whom God has given eternal life. According to John, the Father's glory is revealed in the death of Jesus.

*<sup>6</sup>“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. <sup>8</sup>For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And I am no longer in the world,*

*but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup>I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.*

John 17:6–19

**In this next passage, Jesus prays for his disciples. The first two things Jesus prays for his disciples is unity and protection. These two things are connected: Jesus prayed that his disciples be protected from the evil so that they may be one just as he and the Father are one. This oneness is unity of mission; just as Jesus is united to the mission of the Father, so the disciples are to be unified in the mission of the Father.**

- According to John 17:1, what is the Father's mission?
- In what way were the Disciples to participate in this mission? (the Great Commission)

**Jesus also prayed that the Father would sanctify the disciples. To sanctify is to cleanse and set a part for a specific purpose.**

- Can you recall the scene where Jesus spoke of cleansing his disciples? If so, when was this scene? (Hint: John 13)
- In what way was Jesus about to cleanse his disciples? (Hint: the cross)
- Of what importance would sanctification have for the disciples' mission? Why do you think being cleansed is of such importance for the Christian life?

<sup>20</sup>“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,  
<sup>21</sup>that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may  
be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>The glory that you have  
given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup>I in them and  
you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent  
me and loved them even as you loved me. <sup>24</sup>Father, I desire that they also, whom you have  
given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because  
you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup>O righteous Father, even though the  
world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I made  
known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which  
you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 17:20–26

**In this final passage, Jesus prays for future believers. This prayer is specifically for us today, and just as he prayed for the unity of the disciples, Jesus also prayed that we would be unified. But Jesus also adds some additional prayers for us.**

- Take a close look at verse 24. What do you think Jesus means by “they also . . . may be with me where I am”? Is there another verse where Jesus said something similar? (Hint: John 14:1–3)
- Finally, what does Jesus say in verse 26 about love. What does Jesus pray for us in this passage?

**So Jesus prayed for us—so what? If we think this is insignificant, we fail to understand the power of prayer. Our mission in this world is guaranteed to be effective because Jesus prayed for us; the only way we can fail to be effective is by failing to be obedient. Just think about that—the pressure is off of us to be effective. All we have to do is respond to what the Lord is doing and go. Whatever may happen, Jesus prayed for us. This means we can go with confidence into whatever situation we face.**

- What prayers do you need to pray for yourself in order to accomplish God’s mission? What struggles do you have that limit your effectiveness?
- Who are you praying for? Take a moment to think, and share with your group who it is in your life you need to be praying for.

- As our city, and nation, faces COVID-19, how do you think Vintage can live the Gospel, serve the city, and be the Church?
- What are you taking to Jesus in prayer?