

LENT

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

 CHRIST PACIFIC CHURCH

Jesus Prays for the Church's Joy

John 17:6-19

In John 17:6-19, Jesus prays for the Church's joy, where the focus shifts from himself to his present disciples. (Verses 20-26 revolve around Jesus' future disciples.) The Church's joy is found in its protection and unity in Christ and in its joyful dedication to God's mission. Although Jesus' disciples do not "belong to the world," Jesus sends them into the world for God's kingdom purposes.

KNOW

John 17:6-12 is centered on God's protection of those who belong to Christ. What did Jesus do for "those" whom God the Father "gave" Jesus (17:6-8)? What did "those" whom God "gave" Jesus do and "know" (17:6-8)? What did Jesus say about those he was praying "for" in 17:9-10? Why did Jesus ask God the Father to "protect" his disciples (17:11-12)?

In 17:13-19, Jesus prays for the disciples' joyful dedication to God's mission for them. Why did Jesus pray for his disciples "while" he was "still in the world" (17:13-14)? Why did Jesus "not" pray that God the Father would "take" Jesus' disciples "out of the world" (17:14-18)? Why did Jesus "sanctify" himself (17:16-19)?

GROW

Jesus emphasized that his disciples belong to God. Earlier in the Gospel of John, Jesus' followers are described as "children" of God. How have you embraced your identity as a beloved child of God? What past experiences and events get in the way of this new identity from God?

GO

Jesus consecrated himself for God the Father's purposes in the world. We, too, are sanctified or set apart to serve God for the sake of God's kingdom. How can you prepare your mind and heart for future service to God? What hurts, habits, or hang-ups might get in the way? What steps have you already taken to commit your life to Christ and his purpose for your life?

"Sanctify"

In 17:17-19, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be "sanctified in truth." Just as Jesus sanctified himself for the mission God the Father had for him, so Jesus asked God to sanctify or "set apart" his disciples for *their* God-given mission. What does it mean to be sanctified "in truth"? It seems to refer to the truth about and from Jesus and obeying Jesus' commandments.