



February 18, 2024

## Praying with Jesus: Jesus prays for Himself

**Big Idea:** Before His coming death, Jesus prays that his sacrifice would reveal exactly who God is.

**Overview:** John 17 is a masterful text; a loud crescendo in the gospel. With His disciples present, and after concluding a section on the person and work of the Spirit, Jesus prays to His Father before his *Hour*. The hour in John, is the weekend that includes the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In this chapter we see the key themes of John's gospel come together: the obedience of the Son to the Father, the deity and glory of Jesus as the Son of God, and the work and purpose of the cross. In this first message we see Jesus' intimate relationship with the Father. We are brought "behind the curtain" to see Jesus' obedience, submission, and dedication to bring the Father glory through his impending death.

### Life Group Objectives:

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week's message and passage or dig into the series you are going through as a group. We desire for you to have the Bible play a key role in your time together.
2. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?
3. Reflect on how your group, or as individuals, can play your part to be on mission in your neighborhood, church, or city.

### KAC Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan Links:

- *We desire a renewed church!* This only comes as we encounter Jesus at the cross. This series takes us to the cross.
- *We desire a formed church!* The Lenten season offers us a time to be intentional with spiritual practices like fasting, to make more space for God.
- *We desire a deeply relational church!* As you gather in your group, you are building bridges of tight and trusted relationships that strengthen the core of KAC.

### Conversation starters:

- Where did you experience God this past week?
- Have you ever engaged in Lenten practices before? Why or why not?
- What stood to you from this past week's sermon?

### Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

**Read Scripture:** John 17:1-5

### Questions for Discussion:

1. **Glory in the Cross vs. 1**
  - What do you think Jesus is saying in this verse?
  - How would you describe the word *glory*? How did Pastor Chris describe it?
  - The cross confronts our desires for upward success, yet this is the place that Jesus says will glorify Him and His Father. What difficulties do you have with the cross? What does it say about God?
2. **Glory in the Church vs. 2-3**
  - Jesus' authority extends to those the Father "has given him." This is the church. How is Jesus being glorified as you meet as a Life Group right now?
  - Jesus promises "eternal life." In John's gospel, "eternal life" references both life in the age to come, and life right now. How are you experiencing the Kingdom life currently? How is Jesus' message, ministry, presence, voice relevant to you today?
3. **Glory in the Heavens vs. 4-5**
  - Jesus affirms that He has "completed" the work that the Father had for Him. As you think about John's gospel, and the previous sermon series *Encounter*, what "work" has Jesus been doing?
  - Jesus asks that He receives the same glory that He has with the Father "before the world began." What a statement! Jesus is asking that the Father bring the same splendor that Jesus had before the incarnation as He goes to the cross. How does make God's love for your more real and tangible as you consider Christ's death?

**Listening to God:**

- How has God been present in our discussion so far? What themes have emerged?

**Prayer Prompts and Application:**

- Invite members of the group to share prayer requests. Gently nudge people to go a few levels deeper by being specific and vulnerable.
- Pray for this season of Lent as a group. Ask Jesus to be more present as you reflect, and lean in for the next 6 weeks as we pray with Jesus.

**For Further Study:**

Books: *The Gospel of John* by Dale Bruner, *The Gospel of John* by D.A. Carson, *Delighting in the Trinity* by Darrell Johnson

Video: [John](#) by the Bible Project

KAC Resources:

[Strategic Plan at KAC](#)

[KAC Podcast](#) that will have devotionals Monday & Friday throughout Lent