

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Hark the Herald, Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Glorify Your Name

WELCOME

Quiet Moments. Spend a few moments of quiet individual prayer before you start your small group meeting.

WORD

JOHN 17

“¹ Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.³ This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.”

What we pray for reveals the most important thing about us.

John 17 is the longest recorded personal prayer of Jesus. As He entered the presence of God the Father, He uttered what was in His heart and what was most important to Him. Jesus prayed for Himself (**God's Glory**), for His disciples (**Protection and Sanctification**) and His future disciples (**Unity**).

JESUS PRAYS FOR GOD'S GLORY

The glory of the Father and the glory of the Son are inter-connected: that to glorify the Father is to glorify the Son and to glorify the Son is to glorify the Father (**v.1-2**). When we look at Jesus, we get an image of who God is for He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of God's being (**Hebrews 1:3**).

To know God the Father and Jesus is to have eternal life. Eternal life is manifested not just by a long life but also by the quality of life that God wants us to have, which is a life of joy, peace and patience. Jesus gives eternal life and He brought glory to God on earth, having accomplished the work which the Father had given Him to do (**v.3-4**).

It is in the heart of Jesus to glorify God. It is His most important mission on earth. The Bible tells us, when Jesus died on the cross, that is in obedience to God the Father (**Philippians 2:8**). His death accomplished God's plan for our salvation and brought amazing glory to God.

JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

Jesus desires for us to live for His glory as well. Just like Jesus, God has also given each one of us a work to do. When we accomplish this mission of ours, we also give glory to God.

It is a great comfort to know that Jesus is praying for us (**Hebrews 7:25**). Just as He is full of joy, He wants that joy to be in us. He is praying that, as His representatives on earth, His joy will be made full in our lives (**John 17:13**). More so, Jesus prayed for our protection, our sanctification and our unity.

Protection (John 17:14-17) - Many of us do not realize that the enemy is real, that he wants to trap us and cause division among us. Satan's method is to side-track us because He does not want us to bring glory to the Lord. Satan wants to destroy us so that we would lose our joy. Jesus is warning us through His prayer that we need protection from the Evil One. He made sure the disciples hear this prayer because He wanted to teach them that will be protected from the evil one through our sanctification in the truth, the Word of God. The key to our protection is to know and study the Bible and to make decisions based on God's Word.

Sanctification (John 17:18-19) - Jesus prays not only for our protection but also for our sanctification. To be sanctified is to be set apart for a specific purpose which God designed us to accomplish. We are designed for a mission to reflect the glory to God in our lives so that people will come to know Jesus. If we do not use our life for this purpose, we will never find satisfaction nor bring glory to God.

WORD (cont'd)

Unity (John 17:20–21) – Lastly, Jesus prays for those who will believe in Him in the future through His disciples. He prays that all of them may be one. God wants us to be united in love. Loving one another is the best evidence of knowing Jesus. The most powerful evangelistic tool that God has given us is our testimony of how we live and how we love each other. When the world sees our unity with God and with one another, the world will believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

We ought to preserve the bond of unity by loving one another, being humble, gentle and gracious (**Ephesians 4:2–3**).

We must live for God's glory because that is our destiny. In fact, the glory that Jesus has in mind is not just His own glory but the glory that He will share with us (**John 17:22**). We, the children of God and co-heirs with Christ will soon be glorified in Him (**Romans 8:17–18**). The Bible tells us that someday when we see Jesus we will be like Him (**I John 3:2**).

The ultimate purpose of everything is about the glory of God and the glory in store for us. Christ, in us, is the certainty of this hope of glory (**Colossians 1:27; 3:4**). Jesus is praying for us, so let us live for Him and for His glory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Gloria in Excelsis Deo.** How did Jesus glorify God the Father according to **John 17:1–4**? How can you also glorify God?
- 2. Jesus is Praying.** In knowing that Jesus is praying for you, how does this affect your life?
- 3. My Mission.** What is God's purpose in your life? What are you doing to fulfill your mission according to His design?

WORKS

OBEYING FOR HIS GLORY

The joy of the Christian life is not in doing what we want to do, but it is in obeying what God wants us to do. God wants us to honor His name and live for His glory. We bring glory to God by obeying Him.

Take time to list down the things that God wants you to do now in obedience to Him and fulfilling your purpose to glorify Him. Share them to your accountability partner.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends