

missional community

guide

The Way of Jesus

JOHN 17:1-26

Use this guide to help structure your time together. All of these parts are equally valuable for the health and growth of a Missional Community. The examples given below are meant to be a starting point for your time together.

Fellowship

Take time to fellowship with each other.

- How did you submit your love for the world to God?
- How were you able to be bold in your faith?

Prayer

Take time to pray together as a Missional Community incorporating the passage into your corporate prayer.

Adore God for who He is:

- He has authority over all
- He is Truth

Confess the ways that you have not been faithful to God:

- When you have caused disunity in the Body
- When you sought your own glory and not God's

Thank God for what He has done:

- God loved us
- God has unified His followers

Supplication - Pray for those in your MC and outside of your MC:

- Kingdom: For Jesus's disciples to be of one mind for the Kingdom
- Others: To see and respond to the glory of God
- Self: To grow in sanctification

Passage

Process through the passage together.

What does the text say?

Before you jump into discussion, make sure that everyone has a good understanding of the passage. Read the passage again and then work together to retell the passage without reading it.

Background info about the author, audience, style, etc. that may be of help.

- John 17 is commonly referred to as “The High Priestly Prayer”. It is made of three sections.
 - First, Jesus prays to the Father for Himself. He reports of how He has done all that God gave Him.
 - Second, Jesus prays for His disciples. He asks that they may be one, be filled with joy, keeping them in the Father’s name and from the world, and that they would be sanctified as they go into the world.
 - Third, Jesus prays for all future believers. The central theme of this prayer is that all believers would be unified. Jesus shows that the result of this unity would be that the world would know that Jesus was sent by the Father. Jesus also prays that all disciples would be with Him (v. 24). This goes back to His definition of eternal life in verse 3, “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”
- Most people are familiar with the phrase, “in the world, not of the world”. Verses 15 and 16 are where that idea comes from.
- Unity is the overarching theme of Jesus’ prayer. The unity among the disciples and eventually all believers in a display of the unity between the Father, Son, and Spirit.
- Jesus refers to the Father as “Holy Father” (v. 11). This is the only time in the New Testament that God the Father is referred to by this name. In the same way that God is Holy, He calls us to be holy (sanctified).

What do we learn about God from this text?

Have members input what the Holy Spirit has revealed to them about who God is from this text.

- God is holy
- God has all authority
- God is One

What do we learn about man from this text?

Have members input what the Holy Spirit has revealed to them about who man is from this text.

- The world hates Jesus’ disciples
- Disciples can be unified

What is there that we can obey from this text?

What commands are there for the original audience?

- None

Are there commands that still apply to disciples today? If so, what?

- No



Other passages in Scripture with similar themes or principles:

These are passages that could be helpful to draw from for further informing today's text.

- Romans 8:31-39
- Leviticus 11:44-45
- Ephesians 2:11-22
- Matthew 5:13-16
- John 13:31-35
- 1 John 2:28-3:24

Application

Now that a good understanding of who God is and how He relates to man has been established from this passage, how does this impact our lives? What are specific things that each member needs to apply in their life this week?

What applications directly from the passage can be applied this week?

- Seek reconciliation between disciples. If you have an issue or know of one that is causing disunity, address it in a healthy way this week.
- Pursue God. Spend time with Him in prayer through stillness and silence. Spend time in His Word.

There may be things that the Holy Spirit is leading us to obey that are not directly from the text, share those as well.

- Invite someone to participate in BLESS Weekend.
- Set aside time to worship God through the Psalms.

Be sure to take time to discuss how you can support and encourage each other in the things God is calling you to apply throughout the week.

- Ask the question: "How can we help you with that?"

Mission

Discuss how you will work together this week to impact the world around you.

- BLESS Weekend is in two weeks! Make sure to sign up to volunteer together as a Missional Community.

VISION: to engage 2000 new unchurched neighbor households by 2028.

MISSION: We exist to glorify Christ by making disciples of all nations who worship, cultivate biblical community, live a generous life, and multiply disciples.

VALUES: Spirit Led / Pursuit of Unity / Kingdom Over Self / Adaptability

