

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Lesson 16 – Study Questions

John 17:1-26

DAY ONE

1. What thoughts from the Spiritual Reflection or commentary from Lesson 15 (John Chapters 15 and 16) last week were meaningful? Record some thoughts here to share with your group.

Read John 17:1-5

2. Having ended His ministry of teaching, in today's lesson Jesus raised His eyes to heaven in what has been called His high priestly prayer. He began His prayer to the Father stating that the hour has come. What did He ask for Himself in verse 1?

3. Glory can be defined as the "Splendor, power and honor that belongs to God." (Navarre) Jesus asked the Father to give Him glory just as the Father had given Him authority over all people. For what reason did Jesus pray for glory (end of verse 2)?

4. According to verse 3 what is eternal life? (Good memory verse)

5a. Jesus continued His prayer, "I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do" (verse 4). In verse 5, what did Jesus then ask from His Father?

b. Read and record John 1:1-2

6. CONNECTION: Jesus glorified the Father by doing the work that He was given ... His death on the cross. In Mass after the Consecration the priest offers Jesus' sacrifice to the Father.

We also participate in the Mass by offering Jesus' death to the Father and by offering our own works and prayers with Him and to Him. What work has the Father given you to accomplish? For example, are you called to be a loving spouse, parent, or friend? Are you called to reach out to strangers in Christ's name? Are you called to give your time to a charitable cause? Describe some of the ways in which you can glorify the Father this week.

Today offer up your works through this ancient prayer of the Church: O Jesus, through the immaculate heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.

DAY TWO

Read John 17:6-10

7a. Continuing His prayer to the Father, Jesus began to pray for His disciples. According to the first part of verse 6, to whom did Jesus say He had revealed the Father's name and to whom was He referring?

b. What are some ways that Jesus revealed God's name (for example refer to John 6:35 and 10:11).

8a. What three things did Jesus say to the Father about these disciples (end of verse 6)?

b. Those disciples knew that everything the Father gave Jesus was from God, including the words He passed on to them (verses 7-8). List the three verbs denoting the disciples' response to Jesus (last part of verse 8).

9. Jesus did not pray for others in "the world" in this prayer. For which group did He pray and why (end of verse 9)?

10a. Jesus said to the Father, "Everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine." Who has been glorified in the disciples according to verse 10?

b. Jesus spent three years teaching His disciples and preparing them to lead His Church after He returned to His Father. With this in mind, why do you think Jesus was praying exclusively for His disciples right now?

11. CONNECTION: How beautiful that on the night before He died, Jesus prayed so fervently to His Father for the shepherds who would carry on His mission after He returned to Heaven. Our Church leaders of today are the spiritual descendants of Jesus' twelve apostles. In fact, through Apostolic Succession, we can trace our Catholic Bishops of today, back through the ages to the 11 apostles by the "laying on of hands" conferred by the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Recall a particular bishop, minister or priest who has been influential in your own spiritual walk. Record some details.

Begin your prayer thanking the Lord for His gift of church leaders, who have proclaimed the Good News for two thousand years, down to our own generation.

DAY THREE
Read John 17:11-15

12. Jesus continued to pray for His disciples who were still "in the world." He prayed that the Father would keep His disciples in the Father's name. For what reason did He pray this (last part of verse 11)?

b. What is a way in which the disciples would be one with each other as Jesus and the Father are one?

13a. Complete Jesus' description of how He cared for the disciples when He was on earth (verse 12).

When I was with them

that you gave me

b. The only one who was lost He called "the son of destruction." To whom was He referring

and why was he lost?

14. Jesus was coming to the Father. What did He want for His disciples and what does that mean (second sentence of verse 13)?

15. In verse 14 Jesus told the disciples that the world would hate them when He gave the Father's word to them. For what reason would the world hate them?

16. Jesus told the Father that He was not asking Him to take His disciples out of the world. Instead, what did Jesus ask for them (verse 15)?

17. CONNECTION: The night before He died, Jesus prayed to His Father to protect His disciples from the evil one. In Matthew 6:13 He taught us to pray: "and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one." Just as in Jesus' time, the evil one is a very real threat to us today. Jesus' prayer for His disciples is also a prayer for our protection. Describe a situation in your own life or in that of another in which through God's power evil was resisted or overcome and how this came about.

Today pray for the intercession from St. Michael the Archangel, who through the power of God will help you to overcome the evil one.

St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou O prince of the heavenly host by the power of God thrust into hell Satan and all the spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

DAY FOUR

Read John 17:16-19

18. Continuing His prayer to the Father on behalf of His disciples, Jesus said about them, "they do not belong to the world." In what way did Jesus compare them to Himself (verse 16)?

19a. Jesus prayed for the Father to consecrate the disciples in the truth. How did Jesus define truth at the end of verse 17?

b. One definition of consecrate is to set apart for holiness; for example, at the end of Mass we are told to “go and announce the gospel of the Lord.” What are some other ways are you consecrated in the truth?

20. Just as the Father sent the Son into the world, Jesus sent His followers (verse 18). Read Matthew 10:16-18. With these verses in mind summarize what the disciples were to expect when Jesus sent them out into the world.

21. For what reason did Jesus consecrate Himself (verse 19)?

22. CONNECTION: Jesus asked His Father to consecrate His disciples in truth. In this prayer He is asking His Father to set them aside for a sacred purpose. In their case it was for the priesthood. By our Baptism, we too have been set-aside for a sacred purpose. We are set aside but still are in the world, doing our part to show to the world the love and mercy of God. As one of Jesus’ disciples sanctified in truth, name something you can do this week to share the love and mercy of God.

Read Matthew 5:14-16. Record verse 16. Let that thought lead you into prayer.

DAY FIVE

Read John 17:20-23

23. In verse 20 Jesus petitioned the Father not only on behalf of His disciples, but also for another group of people. Who are they and from whom will they receive the word?

24a. Jesus prayed that the disciples may all be one, as Jesus is one with the Father. What were the reasons according to the end of verse 21?

b. Why would Jesus stress the importance of unity among Christians?

25. Record 1 Corinthians 10:17 which describes the source and sign of unity among Christians.

26. What has Jesus given His followers so that they may be one as He and His Father are one (verse 22)?

27. In verse 23, Jesus once again underscored the importance of visible unity among believers. The unity of His followers will show the world that Jesus was sent by the Father, a Father who loves them. Saint Paul echoes Jesus' plea for unity. Read Ephesians 4:1-6, and record one of the verses which lists something essential for Christian unity.

THINK: On the night before He died Jesus prayed for all who would believe in Him, not only those present, but those down through the generations as well. Two thousand years later we are the recipients of that fervent prayer from our Savior. See how much He loves us! Spend a moment in gratitude letting that love surround you.

28. CONNECTION: When Jesus prayed that we would all be one together in Him, He united all Christians, past and present, for all eternity. Therefore, in Christ, we are forever united with all the faithful who have gone before us. The Catholic Church calls this reality the communion of saints. Name a favorite saint who has influenced your spiritual life, or simply one of the faithful whom you dearly loved. Give some details about their lives.

Read and record Ephesians 2:19. Spend a few moments reflecting on the thought that, in Christ, the saints and your loved ones are truly present to you today, a union that goes beyond space and time into eternity. Let these reflections lead you into prayer.

DAY SIX
John 17:24-26

29. Finishing His prayer, just before His arrest Jesus thanked the Father for the gift of the disciples. What prayer did He offer in the first part of verse 24?

30. Jesus asked this so that they would see the glory that the Father gave Him. At the end of verse 24 what reason did Jesus add regarding His relationship with the Father?

31a. What did Jesus call His Father at the beginning of verse 25?

b. Look up the word “righteous” in the dictionary and record the definitions.

32. Considering the definitions of “righteous”, why do you think the world did not (and still does not) know the Father in the same way that Jesus and His disciples knew Him according to verse 25?

33. In verse 26 why did Jesus say He has made and will make the Father’s name known to His disciples, past and present?

34. CONNECTION: On the night before He died Jesus prayed for all who would believe in Him, not only those present, but those down through the generations as well. Two thousand years later we are the recipients of that fervent prayer from our Savior. These are the last words John recorded of Jesus’ prayer to His Father before His betrayal. When you are about to leave someone dear to you, is there a special prayer or blessing you give to them before you leave? Share this prayer or one you would like to pray in the future.

In the musical *Lés Miserables*, Jean Valjean prayed for the young revolutionary loved by his adopted daughter. Read the following verses of this touching prayer song and let them lead you into your own prayer.

God on high, Hear my prayer. In my need, You have always been there. He is young, He's afraid. Let him rest, Heaven blessed. Bring him home. Bring him peace. Bring him joy. He is young. He is only a boy ... Bring him home.

Read Lesson 16 John 17:1-26 in the *Meditation and Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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