

# John 17

## SPirit EMPOWERED Faith

### Day 1

**L-3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him.**

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.’ This is the first and most important command... And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ... All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

I. Love the Lord Your God... How might this text lead me to better love God? “We love because He first loved us.” (1 Jn 4:19) We can only love with all our “heart, soul, mind, and strength” the REAL God.

A. As you read and reflect on the chapter, how might you describe the “REAL” God as He is seen as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

1. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ He is seen as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ He is seen as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Jesus is seen toward \_\_\_\_\_ as He  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Jesus is seen toward \_\_\_\_\_ as He  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. How might the above insights challenge some of your misconceptions of God? “Sadly, I sometimes mistakenly see God as \_\_\_\_\_.”

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### Day 2

**W-1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word.**

B. Since God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8): The REAL God described above wants to relate to you as you described Him above; pause to let Him love you.

1. Father, as you express yourself to me as the God who \_\_\_\_\_, my heart is moved with \_\_\_\_\_

2. Father, as you express yourself to me as the God who \_\_\_\_\_, my heart is moved with \_\_\_\_\_

C. Jesus is available to love you like we read of His love in this chapter. Pause to express your heart to Him as you see Him in this chapter.

1. Describe how Jesus has loved you in some of the same ways that you read of His love in this chapter: “I have experienced the love of Jesus as He has \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jesus, as you love me like you loved those in this chapter, my heart is touched with \_\_\_\_\_

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*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. This is the first and most important command... And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ... All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

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### Day 3

***P-5. Ministering His life and love to our nearest ones at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His Body, the Church.***

II. Love Your Neighbor... How might this text lead me to better love others, both those who follow Jesus and those who don't know Him? “Love one another even as I have loved you.” (John 13:34)

Since we have freely received of His love, we are to freely give this same love to others; consider again how you see love portrayed in this chapter.

A. Who among your family or friends might you better love?

1. I could better love \_\_\_\_\_ especially by \_\_\_\_\_

B. Notice again how Jesus expressed love by accepting, forgiving or sacrificing? How might Jesus have taken initiative, expressed compassion or offered support? How did Jesus share truth and eternal hope?

1. Who in the traffic patterns of your life might benefit from receiving the blessing of Christ's love through you? (*who*) \_\_\_\_\_ could benefit from my sharing the love of Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who in your life could benefit from sharing part of your life story of encountering truth and eternal hope? (*who*) \_\_\_\_\_ could benefit from sharing more about \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pause now to pray from this person and then yourself as you impart both your life and the gospel.

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### Day 4

***M-1. Imparting the gospel and one's very life in daily activities and relationships, vocation and community.***

III. “As you love yourself” your significance, value and worth have been established by your creator through the gift of His Son. How might this text affirm your identity as His “beloved”?

**“This is how God showed his love to us: He sent His only Son into the world to give us life through Him.” (1 John 4:9)**

Celebrate how you have received His love and grace, His forgiveness and new life, His calling and kingdom purpose.

A. Re-read the text as His truth being shared just for you.

1. I'm grateful that I have experienced the blessing of verse \_\_\_\_\_ as I \_\_\_\_\_

B. Since He is the same yesterday, today, and forever meditate on you being “in” the story of this chapter; allow Him to love you as you read of His love in the chapter.

1. My heart is touched with gratitude that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

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### Day 5

***L-4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His Beloved.”***

# John 17

## Encounter Jesus

*“Eternal life means to know and experience you as the only true God, and to know and experience Jesus Christ, as the Son whom you have sent.” (John 17:3)*



*Disciplined, bold and believing prayer.*

**T**he sounds of the city faded with the light of day. A chill crept slowly through the room with a foreboding the men had not sensed before. Something had changed.

Jesus kept talking about leaving them alone, going where they could not follow, persecution and hatred arriving. What had been an exciting stream of divine truth was building to a torrent of disturbing revelation.

The words seemed to thicken the very air they breathed. Then, for a moment, He grew silent. His gaze went beyond anything seen in the darkness of the room and He began to pray, “Father the time has come.”

Certainly they had seen Him pray before. He had even taught them what to say when they prayed. Mostly though, they had watched Him leave and go off by Himself. Someone would follow, just to make sure He was safe you understand, and they would report the other-worldliness of the scene as the Son talked to His Father.

Now, in a way they had never witnessed. He prayed to the Father with them fully present and engaged. Heaven descended into the room.

“Eternal life means to know and experience you as the only true God, and to know and experience Jesus Christ, as the Son whom you have sent.” John 17:3

Eternal life. Beyond the day to day of business as usual, beyond the growing old, beyond the grave, there had always been the mystery of eternity. Now, in these last hours before He would leave. He told them the truth mankind had begged to hear.

**Eternal life is to know and experience the Father and Jesus Christ who He sent.** It is so simple that most make it more than difficult. To know the Father is to know the Son. To know the Son is to invite Him into your Life. To invite Him in means to admit that you desperately need Him.

We all do. No one is exempt because man was not created to be alone and apart from God. Not ever. Not now. Certainly not in eternity. Jesus came so you could know and experience both the Father and the Son.

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*Do you need Him now? Pray like this.*

*“Jesus, more than anything else, I need to know that You are with me and for me right now. With all of my heart, I want to experience the love of God that You came to earth to show. I ask you to fill the void in my heart that can only be filled by You. Now speak to me, Jesus, and I will obey.”*

# John 17

## Experience Scripture

***“I have commissioned them to represent me just as you commissioned me to represent You. And now I dedicate Myself to them as a holy sacrifice so that they will live as fully dedicated to God and be made holy by Your truth.”  
(John 17:18-19)***

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L-8

***Disciplined, bold and believing prayer.***

Jesus dedicated Himself as the sacrifice for both sin and transformation...SO THAT we might become something that we are not...SO THAT the church would have the power to completely dedicate time, resource and energy to Kingdom advancement... SO THAT every person who received Jesus would be sanctified and made holy by the truth that lived within through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

His prayer was not just thoughtfully constructed sentences that felt good, but truth that when embraced would come alive in “rivers of living water (bursting) from within you” (John 7:38).

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***Pause and reflect on Jesus’ suffering.:***

He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (Isaiah 53:3). Allow yourself to fellowship with the sufferings of Jesus (see Philippians 3:10). Express your care: *“Lord, because I love you, it makes me sad that you have experienced so much pain.”*

When Jesus promises, He delivers. Do you need to experience living water right now? What part of your character needs to be washed and made holy? What area of life needs living water applied?

*Pray like this:*

*“Jesus, today I need to experience the truth of Your Word that my life would be dedicated and made holy by Your truth. You promised that Your truth would not be burdensome but instead bring freedom. You said Your truth would set me free! I need that freedom, cleansing and empowering in \_\_\_\_\_  
(my character, failure, marriage, discipline) and give you permission to speak that truth that will change me. I commit to submit, Jesus. Now come in power in my life.”*

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## Engage Fellowship

*“And I ask not only for these disciples, but also for all those who will one day believe in me through their message. I pray for them all to be joined together as one even as you and I, Father, are joined together as one. I pray for them to become one with us so that the world will recognize that you sent me.”*  
(John 17:20-21)

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L-8

*Disciplined, bold and believing prayer.*

Over and over throughout the evening, Jesus had said, “Ask the Father...Ask in my name...He will not refuse you!”

Now He asks, He prays. The one who promised that His name would shatter the ceiling between heaven and earth, the one who promised that requests in His name would resonate throughout the throne room of God, He prays. And His prayer will not be refused.

- He prays for all believers throughout the centuries until His second return. Verse 20 records that this prayer is not just for these eleven disciples but also “for those who will believe in me through their word.”
- He prays that we would be in unity.
- He prays that the unity would emulate the fellowship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It is the reason He prays though that is so often ignored...”So that the world will recognize that you sent me.”

Imagine this most sacred time in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. The Passover meal is finished. The Servant Christ has washed the feet of each disciple, and the betrayer has departed to complete his betrayal of the Messiah. Christ will soon be arrested, crucified, and buried; and three days later He will rise from the dead, but now he prays!

It’s during these final moments together that Christ and His now eleven disciples must complete preparations for His death and for their leadership of the early church. Christ will provide instruction, encouragement, and hope in this “Upper Room Discourse,”

culminating in His longest recorded prayer (John 13-17). It is during this John 17 prayer that we also see the personal relevance to our lives.

Are you not one of His disciples? If not, pause quietly even now to invite **Him into your life**: “*Lord Jesus, thanks for loving me, praying for me and desiring a relationship with me. I need You to forgive me and change me as You come into my life to make me part of Your family. Thank you for doing so even now; by faith I receive You as my Savior and Lord.*”

**Please stop and read verses 20 and 21 again.** Christ has declared a critical ingredient in our lives as we follow Him: that we would live in oneness—without division, strife, jealousy, or pride—being diligent to mutually care for, yield to, and love one another (1 Corinthians 12:24-27; Ephesians 5:21; Galatians 5:13). And it will have divine results: “that the world may believe!” (John 17:21)

The greatest tool of evangelism is the unity the church shares. That also means that the greatest detriment to people coming to Christ is disunity: Jealousy, bitterness, pride and other unity-breakers keep souls from heaven and deliver souls to hell. **Now, pray together this way**: “*Father, in order to fulfill your desire and the prayer of Jesus, I ask you to give me more (patience, faith, forbearance, grace) to fulfill your desires for unity. I ask you to change me and let my life be an answer to Your prayer.*”

