

teach us to *pray*



Normal Campus Sermon Study - 5.31.2026

Leader's Corner

Jesus Prayed for Us

John 17:13-26

Summary: In one of the most intimate moments in Scripture, Jesus prays not only for His disciples, but for all future believers—including us. As we listen in on His prayer to the Father, we discover the deepest desires of Jesus for His people: that we would know God relationally, be sanctified and shaped differently from the world, live in genuine unity, and be sent into the world with purpose and mission. Prayer is not simply asking God for things—it is learning to live in the presence of the Father while becoming the kind of people Jesus prayed we would become.

Main Passage: John 17:13–26

Main Idea: Jesus prayed for us to be formed by God, unified with one another, and sent into the world to reflect His love and glory.

Main Practice: Practice being present with God this week through conversational prayer—listening, reflecting, pleading, and simply remaining aware of His presence throughout the day.

Prayer and Praise

Prayer:

Father,

Thank You that Jesus not only died for us, but prayed for us. Teach us to live as people who belong to You while still living faithfully in this world. Sanctify our hearts through Your truth. Unite us deeply as Your Church. Protect us from division, distraction, and compromise. And send us into our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and relationships as people who carry the love and presence of Jesus. Help us practice Your presence daily and grow in friendship with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Worship Suggestions:

- The Blessing
- Make Room
- Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

Group Discussion

Principle (Main Discussion):

Icebreaker - Who is someone that genuinely prays for you regularly? What does that mean to you?

1. What are some of the specific things Jesus prays for in John 17?
2. Which phrase or section of Jesus' prayer stands out to you most personally? Why?
3. Jesus says believers are "not of the world" but are still sent into it. What tension do you think Jesus is describing?
4. What do you think biblical unity looks like—and what is it not?
5. Where do you currently feel the pull of the "world" most strongly in your attitudes, priorities, or habits?
6. How could practicing God's presence throughout the day reshape your anxiety, relationships, or decisions?
7. Why do you think unity among believers mattered so deeply to Jesus?
8. Jesus prays that believers would reflect His glory and love to the world. What helps or hinders that witness today?
9. What is one practical way you can pursue deeper unity, encouragement, or reconciliation with another believer this week?
10. Where might God currently be sending you to reflect Jesus more intentionally?

Practice

Group Practice:

Spend several minutes practicing conversational prayer together:

- Begin with silence and awareness of God's presence.
- Invite group members to offer short prayers of gratitude, surrender, or intercession.
- Leave moments of quiet reflection between prayers.
- Close by praying John 17:21 aloud together: "That they may all be one..."

Individual Practice:

Set aside 5–10 minutes each day this week to practice "remaining aware" of God's presence:

- Talk honestly with God throughout the day.
- Pause periodically to listen quietly.
- Ask: "Jesus, how are You shaping me today?"

Consider journaling moments where you sensed God's peace, conviction, or direction.

Further Study

Additional Scriptures:

- John 15:1–17 — Abiding in Jesus
- Romans 8:14–17 — Adoption as children of God
- 1 Peter 2:11–12 — Living as exiles and strangers
- Acts 4:32–35 — Unity in the early Church
- 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 — One body, many parts
- John 20:19–21 — Sent as Jesus was sent

Reflection:

Jesus' final recorded prayer before the cross was not centered on comfort, success, or safety—but on our formation, unity, and mission.

Quote:

"The greatest gift we can give the world is to live as people who have clearly been with Jesus." — Brother Lawrence