



## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

May 21, 2023  
"As We Are One"



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### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for revealing yourself to us through your Son. Thank you for not abandoning us, but for reconnecting us with You when we went astray. Help us to seek to be one with one another, as we seek to be more like You. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### John 17:1-11 (NIV)

##### ***Jesus Prays to Be Glorified***

*After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:*

*"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup>For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup>Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

##### ***Jesus Prays for His Disciples***

*<sup>6</sup>"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup>For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup>I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.*

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## INTRODUCTION

As Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion, he asked his Father to be with and protect the people he would be leaving behind. As part of this prayer, he asked that God grant those people unity: “that they may be one as we are one.” This week’s group questions center around the idea of that unity as we seek to be connected.

## QUESTIONS

1. In one of Jesus’ final acts on earth, he washed his disciples’ feet (see John 13:1-20). He did this knowing that one of the people whose feet he was washing was about to betray him, setting off a chain of events that would end his life on earth. What do you think this teaches us about who and how we are to love?
2. The prayer that Jesus prays that ends in him asking for unity (see John 17:1-11, page 1) comes at a time when Jesus is about to be arrested, tried, and crucified. How can you use prayer in times of adversity, even when it means praying for your enemies?
3. What things get in the way of loving others well?
4. Is it possible to remove the things that get in the way of loving others well? What would it take to remove just one of the obstacles you identified?
5. Do you believe it’s possible to have unity even in the midst of differing opinions, viewpoints, lifestyles, and beliefs? If so, what would that unity look like? If not, why?

## FINAL APPLICATION

Looking back at the obstacles you identified that keep us from unity, consider taking the first steps to removing one of those obstacles this week as we seek to be one with each other, as Jesus and his Father were one.