

THE GOSPEL

according to John

'Written so that you may believe'



Handouts to help you read & understand –
for personal Bible study, reading the Gospel with a friend or with a group

15th Session **THEME: A prayer that empowers us.**

1. Icebreaker & prayer 10 minutes to get started

There are things of which you know Jesus wants you to (not) do them. However, to be honest, though you know that, you struggle to obey with joy. Do you recognise this? If yes, wherein?

In John's Gospel, we find Jesus' Farewell discourse (Ch.13-17). Herein Jesus prepares believers for the time that they will not physically see Jesus, since Jesus will be in heaven. He ends this Farewell discourse with a prayer.

2. Read: John 17 10 minutes

- Jesus prayed this prayer for his disciples at that time. Is there a verse wherein we find evidence that Jesus had not only his disciples at that time in mind, but us as well?
- Jesus prays a lot of things. If you should summarise it all as briefly as possible, in one phrase, what would you say, was Jesus praying for?

3. Look again at John 17 20 minutes

In John 17 Jesus prays that the unity that He established between God, Him and believers, will not be broken as He will be in heaven. John 17 consists of three parts:

3.1. Established unity

- Read verses 1-5 again. Jesus prays that God will give Him glory and that He may give God glory as He will be crucified. What can we learn from that?
- Read verses 6-11a again. Soon Jesus would be in heaven again and believers would continue to be in this world. What will believers still have, when Jesus is not physically there?

3.2. Maintained unity

- Read verses 11b-23 again. Someone says: the main thing that Jesus prays for in these verses, is the visible and organisational unity of all Christians and churches in the world (so he prays there will not be different denominations; and that all Christians will stay connected – whatsoever there differences may be). Do you agree? If not, what would you say, is the main thing Jesus prays for here?

3.3. Consummated unity

- Read verses 24-26 again. How can these verses motivate us and help us in what we discussed under the Icebreaker-question?

Read Romans 8:31-39 and take some moments of silence. How/in what are you encouraged today?

4. End with prayer

Digging deeper (information to read before or after the meeting)

The book of Deuteronomy we may see as Moses' (God-given) Farewell discourse. He prepared God's people for the future, when Moses would no longer be with them, encouraging them to keep the unity with God, by keeping his commandments, as they would live in the promised land.