



## One Hope Community Church Suggested Reading Plan & Guide Book of John: Chapter 17

Spiritual transformation happens when we purposefully spend time with God each day. God created you and is waiting to be known by you.

Always begin in prayer, start the conversation with God by asking Him to use His Holy Spirit to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn. Open your Bible, reflect on what you have read, perhaps take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures for both cultural context and personal application, to engage with the Holy Spirit for relational growth with God and to review with your small group if you are in one. This is your space for your time with God, learning and experiencing spiritual transformation. The plan is laid out for five days of reading and reflecting.

We know small groups meet on various days. You may find it helpful to read all of the verses and begin working through the questions before you meet so that you are ready to discuss them with your small group whenever it meets. The discussion with your small group is meant to help you learn from each other and grow deeper in community.

Song for the week: Wanted - Danny Gokey

Song links: <https://youtu.be/6KH2ZzzEZFg?si=sbpwTlvy9LdcOJgf>

### **Suggested Reading Plan for John 17 (March 10 - March 16):**

(click on underlined verses or use your Bible)

Day 1: John 17:1-5

Day 2: John 17:6-10

Day 3: John 17:11-19

Day 4: John 17:20-24

Day 5: John 17:25-26

### **Lent**

We are in the 5th week of the season of Lent, which began in the earliest days of Christian history. St Irenaeus lived from 130-202 A.D. He was a third generation disciple after the apostles. That's like being a grandchild - not that much removed when we think of it that way! He mentioned Lent and fasting in a letter he wrote stating "observance did not originate in our own day, but very much earlier, in the time of our forefathers."

Lent is a season to remember that with Good Friday and Easter, it is the end of Jesus' suffering and also the end of ours as we are grafted in to God's family, to enjoy life with Him both here on earth and later in heaven. We can rejoice that it is not by our works but by His grace that we are saved!

How are you doing in week 5 with your "giving up" or "adding in"? Has it grown anything with your relationship with God? What might you have missed if you were not participating in this exercise? This practice of Lent is to help us remember Jesus' redemptive work for you.

Whether you have kept at it or slipped a few times, this practice is simply a tool for us to use to help us focus on Jesus.

Putting it into practice: Rejoice according to Webster's dictionary means "to show great delight or joy." In the Bible when we read rejoice, it comes from the Greek word *xaírō* (pronounced chairó). The root is xar which means "leaning towards" and xaris means "grace."

"Leaning towards grace" is a beautiful description of rejoice. As we live in God's grace, and as we realign our minds with His Word, we begin to see ourselves as God sees us. We relate to God on the basis of what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. As our mind is renewed, our emotions transform, changing our behavior. What ways could you show great delight and lean in to God's grace this week as you continue to focus on Lent?

### John 17:1-5

Sixteen times in John we have read "My hour has not come" or "My time is not yet fully come" or "His hour had not come" or that "the hour is coming." In John 13:1 (click on underlined verses to read them), just before the Passover, it changes to "Jesus knew His hour to depart had come." In the Garden of Gethsemane, He says, "Father, the hour has come." The hour is figurative to indicate "the time has come" not a specific hour. All He had done on earth before this time, lead up to this. The upcoming time was His greatest mission. It would complete His work on earth.

For about three years Jesus had been forming relationships and teaching. He performed miracles to attest to Who He was (is) and to glorify God the Father. While those three years were important and had purpose, there was a greater purpose for His coming to earth. What time was Jesus referring to that had come?

According to Jesus, what is the way to eternal life (John 17:3)? As a believer, your eternal life has already begun!

Read John 17:4 again. Notice that God prepared works for Jesus to do and that they brought God glory. They proved that Jesus was (is) God. What are some of the works Jesus did that you read about in John? How did these things prove Jesus is God and how do they glorify God the Father? (Glorify means to bring honor and praise.)

Putting it into practice: Read Ephesians 2:10. God the Father prepared works for Jesus ahead of time, He did the same for you! Just as Jesus proved through His actions that He is God, we prove by our words and actions that we are Christ followers, pointing people to Him. Consider beginning your day by asking the Holy Spirit to show you the works God has prepared for you in the day. Listen to His nudges throughout the day and follow through on the things He prompts you to do. At the end of the day, spend 5 minutes with God remembering where He used you and thank Him for the works He had prepared for you.

Follow up for small group time: How do you notice the prepared works of God for you each day? Share with each other some of the works God had for you this week.

### John 17:6-10

John 17:6 in the NIV says "I have revealed you." Other versions say "I have revealed Your name." The word used for "name" in this passage is the Greek word *onoma* which means name, character, fame and reputation.

What have you learned about God the Father (His character, reputation and who He is) from Jesus?

While on earth, Jesus, the Son of God, continually pointed people to knowing God the Father. He submitted Himself to His Father, doing the works His Father prepared for Him.

As believers, we are God's adopted children and should also be pointing others to God, submitting to Him and doing the works He prepared for us. Jesus was the only person to live and do this perfectly. Considering these three - pointing people to God, submitting to Him and doing works He prepared for you - Which is most challenging for you? How does Jesus' example of doing this encourage you or teach you?

Jesus acknowledged that His disciples were chosen by His Father and given to Him. Then Jesus begins His work as an intercessor, praying on behalf of His disciples who were destined for the work of spreading the gospel and building the church.

As a believer, Jesus is also interceding for you (Romans 8:34). Just as Jesus knew the works that God the Father had prepared for His disciples to do, Jesus knows what works the Father has prepared for you. How does knowing Jesus personally prays for you affect you?

Putting it into practice: Notice that Jesus did His part in teaching His disciples and the disciples did their part in believing, accepting and obeying. Jesus had taught others who did not have the same response. The teaching was the same, but the one listening did not have the same heart response. As a believer in Jesus, you have the same part as the disciples: to believe, accept and obey. Remember the new command Jesus gave was to love one another as He loves us. Be open today to noticing the opportunities the Holy Spirit shows you for loving others and obey His voice / prompting.

Follow up for small group time: Share with each other what opportunities the Holy Spirit showed you and if you found it easy or hard to obey His prompting.

### John 17:11-19

John 17:1-19 has been referred to as The Intercessor's Prayer (MacLaren's Expositions). Jesus first talks with His Father about the completion of His works given to Him by the Father (John 17:4). Jesus then focuses on his disciples who He has taught (one of His works / purposes) and advocates for them, asking His Father to protect them (John 17:11).

When Jesus asked for the disciples to remain as one (here and again in John 17:21-23), He compares it to His union with the Father, which is a union of affection and unchanging love.

Why would it have been important for Jesus' disciples to remain connected by affection and love? Why is it also important for us? What happens to our hearts and what happens to our testimony when we do not have this union?

Jesus did not ask that the apostles would have an easy life or that they would achieve earthly honor. Nor does He ask the Father to take them out of the world, instead He has prepared them to go out into the world. Read John 17:13-16. What does Jesus pray for His disciples?

The disciples with Jesus would have heard His prayer and Jesus knew it, just as He did in John 11:42. The prayer was both Jesus talking to His Father and a lesson to His disciples.

What lessons do you think Jesus was communicating to His disciples? Which of these lessons also apply to you? Do any of these lessons stand out as one you needed to hear today?

“He (Jesus) prays not that they should be taken out of the world before their work is done. The Christian ideal is not freedom from work, but strength to do it; not freedom from temptation, but power to overcome it; not freedom from suffering, but joy in an abiding sense of the Father’s love; not absence from the world, but grace to make the world better for our presence; not holy lives driven from the world, and living apart from it, but holy lives spent in the world and leavening it. (Elliott’s Commentary)”

Putting it into practice: The term “of the world” means set apart from God. What lessons that Jesus taught in this prayer or during His ministry help you with being in the world but not of it? Write one or two on a 3x5 card and put it somewhere you can see it often and read it to remind you.

Follow up for small group time: If we were to modernize the term “of the world” we could insert “society.” What other words could be inserted for “of the world?” What in society tempts you to follow the world instead of Jesus? How do you practice being in the world and not of it?

### John 17:20-24

John 17:20-26 has been referred to as The High Priest’s Prayer (MacLaren’s Expositions). The first High Priest was Moses’ brother, Aaron, and the last High Priest was when the second temple was destroyed. A High Priest was a spiritual leader who could teach, with the main job as a mediator or intercessor between God and man. The High Priest was to make a sacrifice for the people of Israel on the Day of Atonement / Yom Kippur.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How did Jesus fulfill the role as a High Priest? During Yom Kippur, which is still celebrated, Jewish people think about their sins and ask for forgiveness from God and others. How are Lent and Yom Kippur similar?

The remainder of Jesus’ prayer is for all who believe and for unity in the Church. He prays “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray for those who believe in me through their message. (verse 20).”

What is Jesus’ prayer for all believers?

Read the following verses: Acts 4:32-35, 1 Corinthians 12:4-31, Ephesians 2:20-22, Ephesians 4:3 and Romans 12:5-16. How are people in the Church to be represented to the world? How are they to act with each other? Which, if any, of these are hard for you to do?

As the Church and as believers, when people see us, we are living testimonies for God. Jesus continues to be our High Priest praying for the Church and all who believe.

Putting it in practice: Read this article: What Does it Mean To Be "In the World but Not of It"? by Kathy Howard (click on the article to open the link). She encourages us to guard our own hearts and immerse ourselves in God’s Word. Take a few moments to consider the questions she asks, then pray, asking God for help, knowing Jesus is also praying for you.

Follow up for small group time: Discuss the boat analogy - was it helpful? What did you learn?

## John 17:25-26

Jesus began His prayer to His Father and continues to address God this way until the end when He adds "Righteous." The Greek word used for righteous is dikaie which means correct, innocent, holy and by implication innocent. Implication is the conclusion drawn or inferred.

While we do not know for certain, what reasons may Jesus have had for adding the adjective to His Father's name? Read Romans 3:10-12. Does this verse give you any additional ideas for why Jesus may have used this adjective?

Paul used similar language to Jesus in Ephesians 3:17-21. Read the verses. Putting it in your own words, what was Paul communicating? Paul wrote, "to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus." Based on what you have learned about what brings God glory, how is His glory made known in the Church and in His Son, Jesus?

Jesus said He had completed the works the Father had given Him to this point ("I have made You known") and was looking ahead to the next few hours and days ("I will continue to make You known").

Putting it into practice: It can be easy to forget to praise God for the opportunities He gives us. As you notice God's nudges to do works for Him, thank and praise Him for communicating with you, inviting you in to His works in His kingdom on earth and give Him the glory!

Follow up for small group time: How has studying Jesus' life in John affected your relationship with Him?

### Consider:

There was no joy in my moments of deep sorrow, but there could be a peace because I knew that my Creator is who He says He is - always with me... Over and over again we see, especially in the Old Testament where an altar was built or a name was given in order to remember how the Lord showed up and provided. How do you remember and celebrate God's goodness and His God-ness? What scriptures, Jesus' truth, you have tucked away in your heart that you can go to for living water when your well runs dry?- Shannon Swift

As Pastor Shannon once said, **Jesus isn't just a Sunday savior, He is a 24 hours per day, 7 days a week savior.** Shouldn't we then be **24 hours per day, 7 days a week disciples?** Shouldn't we hunger to be with Him every day? Jesus is crazy for us! Shouldn't we be just as crazy about Him?  
- Frank Vandy

Putting it into practice: Set an alarm for 2:42pm. When your alarm goes off, pray something like this: Jesus, thank you for the times You have shown up and provided. Thank You for Your goodness. Help me to see You today.