

## **JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES**

### **As We Gather**

Disciples are confronted daily with choosing between faithful obedience or indifference to God's will [Psalm 1], so Jesus' prayer is significant for us as believers, as he prayed for His disciples to experience security, joy, unity and future glory.

**Reading Scripture      JOHN 17 : 6 - 19**

### **Thinking together**

In John 17:6-8 Jesus defined the work He did and clarified the meaning of discipleship. Just as Jesus revealed the nature / character and presence of God [John 6:35 John 10:7 10:11 John 14:9 John 15:5], so disciples reveal Christ's nature / character and presence to the world.

**As a group list the ways in which a disciple reveals Christ to the world, and discuss how in you life each of you reveals Christ's nature and presence**

### Discipleship

- is based on the realisation that Jesus came from God – we see God in Jesus and know that God and Jesus are one
- leads to obedience to God's will - we try to live according to God's word as, through Jesus, we hear the voice of God
- is a response of love and devotion (loyalty) to Christ by those given to Him by the Father because we believe in Him as Saviour and Lord
- brings Jesus honour and glory as He commissions His disciples to continue His ministry in the world

**How can we learn to follow / walk in Jesus' footsteps? Discuss**

**How can we develop a dynamic devotion (loyalty) to Christ? Discuss**

Jesus prayed specifically for His disciples to live victoriously in the world and we have two (2) privileges to help us

- we share His life (John 17:6-12)
- we have His word (John 17:13-19)

However, His emphasis was on

- the safety and security of the believer

**What resources / tools do we have to help us overcome temptation? Discuss (John 17:11-12 + 15) [see also John 16:5-13 1 John 5:12 Romans 8:34-38 Hebrews 4:14-16]**

- the unity of disciples (John 17:13)

**Why is unity among believers important – in time of trouble / crisis? : for the success of the church's mission? Discuss**

**How can we foster unity in the faith community / church? Discuss**

- the sanctification of His disciples (John 17:18)

**How can practical holy living bring glory to God / Christ? Discuss**

### **In Closing**

As we allow God's Spirit to enable us to obey the Word, we bring Him Glory: For the Word gives us joy, love, and power / strength to live a holy life.

The living Christ gives us the resources needed to witness for Him and win others to Him.

### **PRAYER**

Holy Father, your Son prayed that we may be one.  
Protect us in your name, unite us in your joy, sanctify us in  
your truth and send us into the world to proclaim your glory.

Amen