



## TO GOD BE THE GLORY

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life/the grace in your lives.

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### OPENING COMMENT

Jesus' prayer for His close followers is that, while *in*, but not *of*, the world, they would be protected and provided for in the midst of opposition - even hatred and persecution. The Bible make it clear that this world is not out home, and yet we are called to be salt and light in it. How, after being called by Jesus and coming to know Him, do we continue to live for Him in a gracious, yet bold, way - honourably giving glory to God with our lives, resulting in great unity and joy?

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### READ THE TEXT: John 17:11-16

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What do you find particularly challenging about being in, not of, the world?



- 2 Have you ever experience opposition, or even hatred or persecution, because you bore the name of Jesus? What did you do with it / about it? How did you respond?
- 3 Have a time of discussion about, and prayer for, the persecuted church around the world - particularly North Korea, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the DR Congo.
- 4 What are some ways that you can “conduct yourself honourably” (cf. 1 Peter 2:11-12) as you think about the clash of values that we are experiencing in Canada right now?
- 5 Do you know of someone who is experiencing attack from the evil one who could benefit from your intercession? Spend some time in prayer for them. How does your understanding of Jesus as High Priest affect your relationship with Him and others? (Hebrews 7)
- 6 Share an experience of how the Word of God impacted you or changed your life. (Hebrews 4:12-13, etc.)
- 7 Is there someone whom you are struggling to love? What is your commitment to church unity?
- 8 Does joy characterize your life? Why? Why not?

## CONCLUSION

Being united with God through Christ will automatically produce within us a desire to be unified with those around us with the same faith. We will be drawn, in love, to encouraging and exhorting our brothers and sisters towards Christ. This will result in a supernatural ability to stand firm when the world’s perspectives and ours differ. It will give us the courage to bear persecution, and ultimately, it will give us a joy that surpasses understanding along with a unquenchable hope for the future.

## SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this study.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

