



## CHRISTIAN UNITY

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

In the *High Priestly Prayer* Jesus has prayed that He would be glorified so that He could glorify the Father (1-5), that His disciples would *keep the Word* and be *kept by the Father* (6-19), and now He prays that those who will believe would be one, just as He and the Father are one (20-26). How is such oneness achieved and why does it matter?

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### READ THE TEXT: John 17:20-26

<sup>20</sup>"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup>that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. <sup>24</sup>Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup>O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Try and distill the essence of what Jesus prays for his followers together.
2. What are some things that Christian unity are and aren't?
3. What is so central to the Christian faith that it is worth breaking fellowship over?
4. Share Bible passages with each other that celebrate the diversity of Christ followers through the gospel.
5. Are there relationships that you have in your life that you wouldn't have if it weren't for the gospel? Why? How has God united you with them?
6. How can you pursue sacrificial love in your church and to fellow believers?
7. What are some steps that you can take today and in the coming days to live in unity with fellow believers?
8. How does unity in the church testify about Jesus to the world?

## CONCLUSION

Jesus concludes His prayer by praying for those who *will* believe — that's every believer for all time — that's us! And He prays that the union with Christ that every believer experiences would lead to the unity of believers in the gospel and the mission.

## 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.

