SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY MAR 11

John 17 · week 17 of 21

The Prayer of the Son · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 11

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 17 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Mar 8
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Mar 9
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Mar 10
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 17 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Mar 11

KEY VERSE

> **JOHN 17:3 · NASB**
>
> *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*

The night before the cross Jesus lifts His eyes to heaven and prays out loud in front of the Eleven. He prays for Himself, for them, and for every believer who would come after them. Notice how often He says "given" and "world."

John 17 *The Prayer of the Son*

KEY VERSE 17:3

Theme of the chapter. On the eve of the cross the Son asks the Father to glorify Him so He may glorify the Father and give eternal life, which is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ. He prays that His people, left in the world but not of it, be kept from the evil one, set apart by the Word, made one so the world may believe, and finally brought to be with Him and see His glory.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

world	**18**	vv. 5, 6, 9, 11 (×2), 13, 14 (×3), 15, 16 (×2), 18 (×2), 21, 23, 24, 25
given / gave / give	**17**	vv. 2 (×3), 4, 6 (×2), 7, 8 (×2), 9, 11, 12, 14, 22 (×2), 24 (×2)
glory / glorify / glorified	**8**	vv. 1 (×2), 4, 5 (×2), 10, 22, 24
Father	**6**	vv. 1, 5, 11, 21, 24, 25
one	**6**	vv. 11, 12, 15, 21, 22 (×2)
kept / keep	**3**	vv. 6, 11, 15

JOHN 17:1–5 For Himself

1 OBSERVE *What does Jesus ask in 17:1, and why (17:2)?*

> "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You" (17:1). Because the Father gave Him authority over all flesh, "that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life" (17:2).

2 OBSERVE *How does Jesus define eternal life (17:3)?*

> "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (17:3).

3 INTERPRET *Eternal life is first a quality of life, knowing God, not only a length of time. What kind of "knowing" is this? Read Jeremiah 31:34.*

> Relational, covenant knowing, not facts about God. Guzik: "Eternal life is found in an experiential knowledge (ginosko) of both God the Father and Jesus Christ, God the Son."

4 INTERPRET *Jesus asks for "the glory which I had with You before the world was" (17:5). Read Isaiah 42:8. What is He claiming?*

> God will not give His glory to another, so the Son is not "another." Sproul: "It is a tacit claim to His participation in the eternal glory of God."

5 APPLY *If eternal life is knowing God, how is your knowing of Him growing right now?*

> Personal.

JOHN 17:6–12 For the Eleven: Who They Are

6 OBSERVE *What does Jesus say about the men the Father gave Him (17:6–8)?*

> He manifested the Father's name to them. They kept His word, received His words, understood that He came forth from the Father, and believed that the Father sent Him (17:6–8).

7 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *"I do not ask on behalf of the world" (17:9). Sproul: "Jesus is praying for all those who belong to God, not for everyone on the planet." Guzik: "Jesus specifically had His disciples in mind in this prayer." Many read 17:9 as this prayer's focus, not a limit on God's love (3:16). What comfort do both readings share?*

> If you belong to Him, He has prayed for you by name. The prayer still keeps the world in view: "so that the world may believe" (17:21).

8 OBSERVE *What did Jesus do for the disciples while He was with them, and who was the one exception (17:12)?*

> He kept them in the Father's name and guarded them, "and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled" (17:12).

JOHN 17:13–19 For the Eleven: What He Asks

9 OBSERVE *Jesus does not ask the Father to take them out of the world. What does He ask (17:15)?*

> "To keep them from the evil one" (17:15).

10 INTERPRET *Guzik: "Jesus didn't pray that we would be taken out of the battle, but that we would be strengthened and protected in it." What two errors does "in the world, not of it" guard against?*

> Escape (withdrawing from the world) and absorption (becoming like it). The study's confession names both: wanting out, or blending in.

11 OBSERVE *How are believers sanctified (17:17), and what does Jesus do for their sakes (17:19)?*

> "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth" (17:17). "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth" (17:19).

12 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Spurgeon: "God works sanctification in us by the truth, and by nothing else." Sproul: "If you don't care about truth, there's no concern about sanctification." What does that mean for your time in the Word?*

> Growth in holiness comes through Scripture. Spurgeon: "Justification is perfect the moment it is received, but sanctification is a matter of growth."

13 APPLY *Are you more tempted to want out of the world or to blend into it? What would being sent into it (17:18) look like this week?*

> Personal.

JOHN 17:20–26 For All Who Will Believe

14 OBSERVE *For whom does Jesus pray in 17:20, and what does He ask for them (17:21)?*

> "For those also who believe in Me through their word." "That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You," "so that the world may believe that You sent Me" (17:21).

15 INTERPRET *What kind of unity does Jesus pray for? Is it agreement at any cost?*

> Shared life modeled on the Father and Son, not institutional merger or uniformity. Guzik: "Jesus essentially gave the world permission to judge the validity of His ministry based on the unity of His people." Unity apart from the truth of 17:17 is not this unity.

16 OBSERVE *What does Jesus desire in 17:24?*

> "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory" (17:24).

17 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Spurgeon: "It is the very pith and marrow of heaven to be with Christ." In the garden He would pray, "not My will, but Yours be done." How do 17:24 and that prayer fit together?*

> He surrendered His will to the cross so that this will of His, His people with Him, would be done.

18 APPLY *Jesus prayed for you before you were born (17:20). Who is one brother you are divided from, and what step toward unity can you take?*

> Personal.

WORD STUDY

19 WORD *hagiazō (G37), to set apart as holy. Jesus says, "I sanctify Myself" (17:19). Read Exodus 28:29. How is Jesus both the priest and the sacrifice in this prayer?*

> Like Aaron carrying the tribes' names on his heart, He brings His people before the Father, and He sets Himself apart as the offering. Henry: "He, as the priest and altar, sanctified himself as the sacrifice."

20 WORD *tēreō (G5083), to keep, guard, preserve. Find "keep" and "kept" in 17:6, 11, 12 and 15. Who keeps whom in each?*

> The disciples kept His word (17:6); Jesus kept them (17:12); He asks the Father to keep them in His name (17:11) and from the evil one (17:15).

ACTS 17:11

The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK

Season 5, Episode 1, "Entry" (end of opening, 17:1–5) and Season 5, Episode 2 (opening, 17:14–16)

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

In the show only John notices Jesus praying. Read 17:1. What does the text say Jesus did?

> He lifted up His eyes to heaven and spoke, and John records the whole prayer.

C2 OBSERVE

Read 17:20. For whom does Jesus pray that the show leaves out?

> Those who will believe through the apostles' word — every believer since, including us.

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 17 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.