



## Northland Christian Church

### Group Discussion Guide For the Week of August 14, 2022

*Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & patient, humble support.*

### Connect

- What is one of the most memorable conversations you have had?
- Who has been a great encourager in your life? How have they done this?

### Context

John 17 portrays a prayer of Jesus Christ addressed to God the Father, placed in context immediately before His betrayal and crucifixion, the events which the gospel often refers to as His glorification. In this chapter we learn a unique aspect of the love of Jesus for all His disciples and how He prays for His disciples. It is one of the most encouraging and powerful passages in the scriptures.

### Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Observations, Surprises, and Takeaways from:

#### **John 17** NIV

"After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. 6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. 13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not

of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. 20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one-- 23 I in them and you in me--so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

## Discuss

1. When things in life get challenging, what is typically your first response? First emotion?
2. What in Jesus' prayer in John 17 is encouraging? Surprising? Helpful?
3. What was Jesus' prayer concerning His disciples? (17:15)
4. How have you found prayer to be helpful? Challenging?
5. Who do you know that seems to hear from the Lord regularly? What about them makes you believe that?
6. What comes to mind when you think about Jesus praying for you over 2000 years ago (see especially verses 20-26)
7. What is your favorite method of prayer (written, spoken, quiet, song, poetry, praying scripture, ...)?

## Weekly Challenge

8. Who is someone in your daily circles that you could encourage and serve in a creative way this week? How might you do that? Who can you pray with this week? How will you pray with your family this week?

**End Your Group Time in Prayer**

