

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 06.18.2023

HOW TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE – John 17:1-5

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us, "The gospels reveal that Jesus had a robust prayer life. He prayed in private and in public. He prayed early in the morning and all night long. He prayed before making big decisions and when His heart was heavy and even as He hung on the cross. Jesus' life was filled with prayer, but surprisingly, Scripture records very little about what He said in those prayers. There is one exception though. John 17 is not just Jesus' longest recorded prayer, it's the longest recorded prayer in the entire New Testament. In reading and studying it, there's much that we can learn." Let's get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Daniel's sermon?
2. How would you describe "eternal life" to someone?

Through Jesus' prayer in John 17, we see that Jesus' relationship with His Father was the foundation for all other relationships in His life. When make our Father the center of our relationships, we find a foundation that lasts.

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 17:1-3

1. What "words" (John 17:1) had Jesus just spoken? What "hour" (John 17:1) had come?
2. How does Jesus address God throughout this prayer? What does this tell you about intimacy with God?
3. Looking back at John 4:13-15, What was the Samaritan woman's view of eternal life?
4. How is eternal life defined by Jesus in verse 3? What kind of knowing is this? Explain in your own words how knowing the only true God and Jesus the Messiah is salvation.

The first thing Jesus asks for is for the father to 'glorify' him. It's interesting how he begins by praying for himself. Is it wrong to pray for yourself? Clearly not. It's true that James warns against self-absorbed prayers and says that we shouldn't expect God to answer those requests but that doesn't mean that you should never pray for yourself. In the model prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples, he taught them to ask God to 'give us this day our daily bread.' {Matthew 6:11} what that means is, you should be bringing your needs to God.

“PROMISES” in 2023

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 17:4-5

Jesus was sent to this earth for a specific reason, and He references that here by saying, ‘I finished the work you gave Me to do.’ Even as a child, Jesus knew He was here on a mission. When He got lost as a young boy and his parents finally found Him in the temple, He told them, ‘Didn’t you know that I must be about My Father’s business?’ {Luke:249} He wasn’t talking about Joseph. He was talking about the mission His heavenly Father had given Him.

1. How did Jesus bring God glory on earth?
2. The chief end of many people, believers included, is to glorify themselves rather than God. Glorifying God is not their objective; their real goal is glorifying themselves. God is reduced to an errand boy. Do you live and pray so that God can bask in glory the way that Jessu did?
3. Have you always thought of eternal life as something you have right now in Jesus? How does this change your perspective on knowing God here and now?
4. How does this change your thoughts about difficulty and suffering now?

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Even though Jesus never stopped being God, while He was on earth, the Bible talks about how He temporarily set aside certain aspects of His divine nature so He could live as a man. He lived with self-imposed limitations. He was very God of very God, but His glory was veiled to the point where you couldn’t outwardly distinguish Him from anyone else. He didn’t always hover two feet off the ground or walk around with a halo. He looked like a normal person.

1. What is keeping you from knowing God more? What steps will you take this week to dig into God’s word in order to know of eternal life now?
2. The cross is the apex of God’s glory and our good. What glory do you treasure the most from the cross? How does the cross continually remind you of God’s goodness?

PRAYER – Lets pray that we will truly learn from Jesus example, who although He was God still submitted Himself to the will of the Father and sought to bring glory to Him. Lord, we pray that each of us will bring glory to you with our lives. Help us to recognize that we were created to glorify Your name. Lord, thankyou for your Son Jesus and the eternal life you have given us through Him.

“He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” {Luke 4:18-19}