

John 17 — He Prayed for You

John 17:20 (with 17:9 · 17:21 · 17:24 · Hebrews 7:25) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

John 17 lets us overhear something found nowhere else in Scripture at this length: the Son of God praying to his Father. He prays for himself, then for the eleven men in front of him — and then in verse 20 the prayer turns: **“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.”** Who believes in Jesus through the apostles’ word? Anyone who has ever come to Christ through this book. That’s you. The night before the cross, with the soldiers only hours away, Jesus stopped and prayed for you — two thousand years before you were born. And listen to what he asks: that you would be kept, that you would be one, and then verse 24 — “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory.” The last recorded request of Jesus before his arrest is to have his people with him forever. And Hebrews says he always lives to make intercession. **The prayer that began that night has never stopped.**

GO DEEPER — STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read **John 17:20–26** slowly, with a pen, and write out in your own words every single thing Jesus asks the Father for the people who would believe through the apostles’ word — the unity (**John 17:21**), the world believing (**John 17:23**), being with him to see his glory (**John 17:24**). That is his prayer list for you. Then read **Luke 22:31–32** and **Hebrews 7:25** and let it sink in that this intercession did not end that night. Finally, set your own prayer list beside his and ask the honest question: is what I ask for myself anywhere close to what Jesus asks for me?

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in John: 17:20–26 · 17:9 · 17:24 · 6:37–39 · 10:16 · 10:28–29 · 18:9

Other Gospels: Luke 22:31–32 · Matthew 6:9–13 · Luke 23:34

Rest of Scripture: Isaiah 53:12 · Romans 8:34 · Hebrews 7:25 · Hebrews 4:14–16 · 1 John 2:1

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

The Redeemer’s Prayer

C.H. Spurgeon — The Spurgeon Library

<https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-redeemers-prayer/>

Spurgeon on John 17:24 — the “Father, I desire” verse: Christ’s dying wish is his people with him, beholding his glory.

Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer (sermon series)

John MacArthur — Grace to You

<https://www.gty.org/library/topical-series-library/94/jesus-high-priestly-prayer>

Works verse-by-verse through the whole prayer, including Jesus’ intercession for every future believer.

Expository Thoughts on John — Chapter 17

J.C. Ryle — GraceGems

<https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/j17.htm>

Ryle on the prayer reaching “those who believe through their testimony” — every generation of believers included.

That They May All Be One? Why Unity Is Still Worth Pursuing

Ray Ortlund — Desiring God

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/that-they-may-all-be-one>

On the unity Jesus asked the Father to give us in John 17:21 — and why it is still worth tears and care today.