



SDG Discussion Guide

John 17

September 23, 2018

For starters:

What going-away gift have you received or given that still warms your heart or brings a smile?

What are reasons people have for not believing in Jesus as Savior?

Interaction with the text: The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passages in your group; read them aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the NIV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. What event is it now “time” for (v 1; 12:23-24)?
2. What does it mean to “glorify” someone (vv 4-5,10,22,24)? How is Jesus’ deity emphasized here?
3. Who is the focal point of Jesus’ prayer in verses 6-19? Why? If you had to file a report to the Father on Jesus’ activities, how would you verify verses 6-8?
4. What is Jesus’ concern in verses 11 and 15? What does he mean by “the name you gave me” (see 8:58; Ex 3:14)? What do the events surrounding the original revelation of this name show about its power to save (Ex 3:7-10)?
5. What does he mean by his request in verse 17? What is its purpose?
6. Who is the focus of Jesus’ prayer in verses 20-26? Toward what end? What kind of unity exists between God and Jesus that we should copy?
7. How do verses 25-26 sum up the major concerns of Jesus in chapters 13-16?
8. How are your prayers for others like and unlike Jesus’ prayer? Do your prayers reflect the short-term urgent, or the long-term important needs that people have? What can you apply to your prayer skills from this chapter?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Pray, how can your small group help each other to become more closely united as friends? As you go forth, be alert to notice God’s “nudge”... and respond to it.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).