

Him three times as Jesus had predicted. Jesus knows we will all fall short, but He always makes a way for us to be restored, as he did for Peter.

*John 18:31 NLT - 31 "Then take him away and judge him by your own law," Pilate told them. "Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone," the Jewish leaders replied.*

*If they were seeking justice, they would have conducted the trial by Jewish law, but based on verse 31, what was the Jewish leaders plan to maintain their power?*

*John 18:36b -37 NLT - 36 ... But my Kingdom is not of this world. 37 Pilate said, "So you are a king?" Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."*

Despite the people's expectations, Jesus had not come to confront Rome or overthrow them.

*What did Jesus say was His reason to come into the world? How would you summarize the truth Jesus brings to this world?*

## WRAP-UP

As His life neared its end Jesus' love and concern turned to His followers. He was not leaving them alone; He gave them the promise of the Holy Spirit who would continue what Jesus had begun- guiding them in all truth. He also prayed for their unity to be as complete as the unity He has with the Father, the hallmark of which was love. And when He went on trial the world saw the stark contrast of the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of this world. The innocent Lamb of God was preparing to die.

## MEMORY VERSE

*John 17:21 NLT - 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one--as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

*Challenge- Continue reading John this week in chapters 19-20*

## ***"Believe in God's Future"*** **Believe and Have Life #8**

### INTRODUCTION

As we near the closing out of John's Gospel and Jesus' life on earth, we see His great love and concern expressed for His followers. He is careful to prepare them for a difficult future but not one they would face alone. Jesus' parting gift to His disciples was the promise of the Holy Spirit. Then He intercedes for them in a priestly prayer to the Father before He is arrested and put on trial.

### Ice Breaker

How do you typically approach a difficult task- jump right in and don't look back, procrastinate as long as possible, take time to plan for every eventuality?

### Key Passage

*John 20:30-31 NLT - 30 The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.*

### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### 1. Being a Disciple of Jesus

At this point Jesus is well aware of His impending death, yet His focus is on His friends.

*What does John 17:12 reveal that Jesus had been doing that we might not have noticed?*

*John 17:12 NLT - 12 During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.*

Jesus won't be with His disciples much longer, but He will still be able to communicate with them.

*John 16:15 NLT - 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'*

What does John 16:15 tell us about how we can hear Jesus' voice and how do you see the Trinity at work here?

*John 16:13, 30-31 NLT - 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ... 30 Now we understand that you know everything, and there's no need to question you. From this we believe that you came from God." 31 Jesus asked, "Do you finally believe?"*

Jesus' disciples still had a lot of growing to do. What is one way the Holy Spirit aids us in our spiritual growth (John 16:13)? What insights has the Spirit given you into your future?

We should take comfort in knowing that even those who were closest to Jesus took some time to develop understanding and belief in Him (John 16:31) We grow one step at a time by listening to what God's Spirit reveals to us. But even as we grow, we have times of failure.

What did Jesus tell the disciples was about to happen to that faith and understanding they had just developed?

*John 16:32-33 NLT - 32 But the time is coming--indeed it's here now--when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. 33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*

Jesus not only knew that His disciples would fail, He was preparing them to overcome those failures through Him. When we find ourselves falling short and failing, we can also take heart knowing He has overcome the world.

## **2. High Priestly Prayer of Jesus**

In chapter 17 we have a unique insight into the relationship between the Father and the Son as we listen in on Jesus' priestly prayer. Jesus began by asking the Father to glorify Him. This word for glorify

(*doxazō*) refers to honoring, praising, or clothing in splendor.

*John 17:1, 5 NLT - 1 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. ... 5 Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.*

We see two things in these verses that reveal Jesus' prayer was not a selfish one. What was the reason Jesus asked to be glorified (v. 1)? What does verse 5 tell us about Jesus' previous experience with being glorified?

Following the brief prayer for Himself, Jesus begins to pray for those followers He leaves behind.

*John 17:10-11 NLT - 10 All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory.*

In this verse, what does Jesus receive from those who belong to Him (v.10)?

Jesus' prayer reveals His intense desire to include us in the loving relationship He shares with the Father.

Take a moment to consider how integrated the Father and Son are. What are we invited to do so that we enter into that relationship? How much does the Father love us (v.23)?

*John 17:20-23, 26 NLT - 20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one--as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. ... 26 I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."*

## **3. Jesus Kingdom**

Following His prayer, Jesus and the disciples went to the Mount of Olives, where he was arrested. Although Peter attempted to defend Jesus from the soldiers, once Jesus was in custody Peter in fact denied