

Read John 17

1. John 17 is Jesus' prayer of consecration and intercession for His disciples. In His prayer, Jesus prays for the glory of His hour on the cross. What was the glory of the Son that was revealed to the world when Jesus died on the cross?

The glory of Jesus that was revealed on the cross definitively affirmed His identity as the Son of God who was to fulfill the plans of God's salvation for the entire world. As abstract as that sounds, the glory that was revealed on the cross gave away now the secret to God's rescue plan--in that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was the priest and sacrifice to accomplish the final offering of Himself for the forgiveness of sins, so that new birth and new life would be given to all.

2. Jesus gave us eternal life and defined it as knowing God and Jesus Christ. It is friendship with God. How would you describe your own personal experience in your own friendship or relationship with God?

Allow others to share as much as they would like about their faith journey. Guide the discussion towards personal sharing about how people are experiencing God through His Word, prayer, in other Christians, in their questions and doubts, in their struggles and difficulties.

3. Jesus gave to His disciples the Words of God as truth, as protection from evil, and as the means to consecrate us for God's purposes. How do we experience the truth, protection, and consecrating power of God's Word in our lives?

God's Word is confirmed in us when we bear fruit that keeps with repentance. When our character changes for good, when we become loving, forgiving, merciful, just, when we are protected from temptation, from bad and poor decisions, from irresponsibility, from reckless behaviour, when we are guided in our making decisions towards the care and concern of others, when we are compelled and inspired to deny ourselves for others, when we are given words and language to speak into a situation or difficulty with God's truth and wisdom, whenever Jesus is proclaimed and glorified in our conversations with friends or family. These are just some broad examples to the question.

4. Jesus gave us God's mission to proclaim and live out the Gospel in the world. Jesus then prayed for His followers to be united in mission and love. How can we live into Jesus' prayer for unity in our mission and love for the world?

We can be mindful of our differences with other Christians, respect those differences, study and be interested in them, and engage in conversation with other Christians. We can pray continually for God to unite Christians together for good works. We can also join with other churches or Christians to do good

works, works of service and outreach, works of theological education and missionary endeavours, works of justice and mercy. And when others see Christians together for the good of the world, we would have a better case and a better witness for the truth and transforming power of the Gospel.