# Gospel of John Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## John Chapter 17

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background: This chapter is the last part of Jesus’ conversation with the disciples before he goes to the garden of Gethsemane to pray and then be arrested. In chapter 17 Jesus prayers for three groups of people1. Prayer for himself - Huge highlight: Eternal life is knowing God, knowing Jesus Christ
2. Prayer for his disciples - Huge highlight: Jesus is going to leave the world
3. Prayer for all future followers of Jesus - Huge highlight: Jesus prayed/prays for you, and he prays for us to be unified, to have our primary identity and foundation in our relationship with God
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| Possible main point(s):* Eternal life is available *now*... Start living *now*!
* Jesus had you in mind in his prayers 2000 years ago... will you follow him?
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus has authority to give eternal life (v.2)
* Jesus is leaving the world (v.11)
* Jesus (and his followers) are not of this world (v.14)
* Jesus prayed/prays for all future followers of God (v.20)
* Jesus desires his followers to be unified (v.21)
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| What this has to do with our life:* We can experience eternal life *now*, we don’t have to wait until we die/heaven (v.3)
* Christians are still in the world for a purpose (v.15)
* If we follow Jesus, all other aspects of our identity are secondary and should not keep us from unity with other Christians (v.21)
* Notice that Jesus’ prayer is not simply to fix his problems (remember he knows he is about to be arrested, tortured, and crucified in the coming hours)
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| Relevant technical details:* Jesus not only prayed in the past, he continues to pray/intercede, Hebrews 7:25 (NIV84), “Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”
* We should admit that it is a bit mysterious why God/Jesus should pray to God/Father. We do know that Jesus was setting an example for his disciples and for others, but we should also admit that there is something wonderfully beyond-our-comprehension about the whole thing
* This can be thought of as a person of Christ talk... One aspect of his humanity is that he prayed to God. One aspect of his divinity is that Jesus offers eternal life and God prays for us
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| Possible illustrations:* Do part of the talk on your knees or while looking up/toward heaven (v.1)
* At the start of club take a picture the face of everyone who comes through the door. Make a slideshow which shows every face with the message, “Jesus prayed for YOU” (theologically I believe it is acceptable and preferable to err on the side of assuming it might be possible that every person might come to Christ who hears the message of Jesus... if they don’t that is between them and God)
* Bring items to show the spectrum of difference among us: Family picture/No family picture, Straight A report card/Bad report card, Sports trophy/no trophy, etc. put them on the ground and say that if you are a follower of Jesus these things do not define you... Jesus wants us to be united and one so to love God and love the world (v.23)
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*For more details see ylhelp.com*

 John 17 (NIV84)

*Jesus Prays for Himself*

**17** After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

*Jesus Prays for His Disciples*

6 “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

13 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

*Jesus Prays for All Believers*

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”