

John 17:1-5 Questions

1. (Ice-breaker) What do you remember most about 9/11 [the attack on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon that took place on 9-11-01]?
2. (John 17:1) Matthew (14:23; 19:13; 26:36-44; 27:46), Mark (1:35; 6:46; 14:32-39; 15:34), Luke (3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28-29; 11:1; 22:41-45; 23:46), and John (11:41-42; 12:27-28; 17:1-26) all record that Jesus prayed. Was there any reason you can think of why Jesus might have needed to pray and you do not? Which of these verses about Jesus praying seems most applicable to you today and why?
3. (John 17:1) In the light of this verse about Jesus looking up to heaven to pray, why do you think we typically teach our children and others to close our eyes and bow our heads to pray?
4. (John 17:1-5) How many different things does Jesus pray for in these five verses?
5. (John 17:1) If Jesus is glorified, how does that glorify God the Father?
6. (John 17:2-3) If someone were to ask you, “To whom is the gift of eternal life given?” what would you say? How do these verses answer that same question? Are there any tensions between your first answer and the answer in these verses? If so, how might those tensions be resolved biblically?
7. (John 17:4-5) Read Philippians 2:5-11 and Hebrews 12:1-3. How does Jesus’ emptying himself of his glory apply to your life as a Christian? Do you think it is helpful or harmful for Christians to think about rewards in heaven for service on earth? Why?
8. (Conclusion) Would you please pray for the next seven days what Jesus prayed in John 17:1,5—“Father, glorify your Son”—in the hope that God might answer that prayer to his own glory, to the good of his church, and to the trust of all who suffer faithfully in his service?