

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

GOD BECAME MAN

WEEK 28

April 11 & 12

Jesus' Dying Desire

This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.

SERIES RECAP

Back in August, we started going through the gospel of John and left off in chapter 9. John's gospel is unique from Matthew, Mark and Luke in that John was one of Jesus' first followers and closest friends, and was written around A.D. 85. In his writing, John's primary aim is to persuade skeptics that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God (20:30-31).

SERMON SUMMARY

We've got two weeks left in John's gospel, and this week, we're in John 17. In John 17, Jesus is talking primarily to Christians and more specifically, the Church. Throughout this chapter, we see Jesus' heart for His Church and His dying desire for His people.

MAIN TEXT

John 17:1-26

GETTING STARTED

Have you ever been on a mission trip? If so, where? If not, where do you think God might be calling you to go?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read John 17:1-26 out loud as a group. After reading this passage, in what way(s) do you think our prayers differ from the prayers of Jesus? What are our prayers typically motivated by?
2. In verse 18, Jesus says, "As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." What do you think it means to be "sent"? What did Jesus do in the world that we are commanded to replicate?

3. God has entrusted His love within us so that, through us, it would be expressed to a lost world. He wants the world to know the love that He has for them, through us. How do you feel about that responsibility? Who has God put in your life that needs to know about Jesus' love?
4. This weekend, we learned that before God does anything in and through our church, He must first do something in and through our hearts. Are you actively asking God to purify your heart? What would you like to see God do within our church?
5. God cares more about your availability than your ability. Is that an encouraging statement to you? Has your inability ever kept you from serving God? How can you make yourself more available to God?
6. What level of "lostness" are you comfortable with? Are you guilty of giving off a judgmental posture toward those who don't know Jesus? What can you do to help create a welcoming and accepting environment within our church?

NEXT STEPS

This weekend, we were reminded that the church should never be static, but moving.

How can you be moving this week as a representative of the church?

Go outside of your comfort zone this week and initiate a conversation with someone who needs to hear the love of Christ.

As a group, pray for the people who went all in for Jesus through baptism at Easter services last weekend. Pray for those who decided to get to know more about Jesus through His Word. Pray for the people who were maybe feeling the nudge to give their lives to Jesus, but didn't follow through. And last, pray that we would be a church that moves toward those who are lost, not away.