

26 February

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Gospel of John – week 34

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member why you speak to God in prayer?
2. Who does Jesus pray for in John 17:1 - 5? (**Jesus prays for Himself**).
3. What specific title does Jesus give to God in John 17:1? (**Jesus prays to God as Father**).
4. How did Jesus deal with painful moments in His life? (**Matthew 14:9 – 13; He first went to His Father in prayer, before He went to the source of pain.**)

 Let's go deeper

5. What is eternal life according to Jesus in John 17:3? (**To know God, and to have a personal relationship with God**).
6. In John 17:5; Jesus prays; “before the world existed,” what truth is Jesus communicating? (**Jesus is saying He is eternal and creator God**).
7. In John 17:5; Jesus prays; “share with Me the glory that we shared in the beginning?” (**Jesus says He is God – see Isaiah 42:8**).
8. Why do you think Jesus prayed for Himself in front of His disciples? (**Jesus was teaching His disciples to pray, and to pray for Him as well**).

 Let's apply this

- 9. Jesus prayed with and for His disciples:**
- Who are your disciples at home, if you are a husband or father, I want to encourage to pray with your spouse and children:
- Pray in front of your spouse / kids.
 - Pray through trouble and hardship with your spouse / kids.
 - Pray in such a way that your spouse / kids learn how to pray as well.
 - We all have disciples; parents your kids are your first disciples.

SUMMARY:

Gospel of John: Week 34 (Jesus prays for Himself).

Read: John 17:1 – 5

Where and how did you learn to pray? How was your relationship with your earthly father? One of the best ways to learn how to pray is to listen to Jesus pray.

v.1; Jesus repeatedly prays to God as “Father.” This answers a lot of questions and objections about God. Is God personal? Yes. Is He loving? Yes. Is He good? Yes. Does He know me? Yes. Does He pursue me? Yes. Can I trust Him? Yes. Will He do good for me? Yes. Is He sovereign and in charge? Yes.

Jesus models FOUR powerful truths in His prayer:

We need God like a small child needs their parent. No matter how old we are, (Jesus was 33 years old), we are still the Father's children and need Him. The God of the bible is **relational**. The entire concept of the Trinity is that God is relational, One God in three Persons in perfect and eternal relationship. In any relationship, **communication is key**. When we read the bible, we are listening to God speak to us. When we pray to God, He is listening to us. As a Father, **God hears and answers prayer** like any parent – yes; no or later.

How did Jesus deal with painful moments in His life? See Matthew 14:9 – 13. He first went to His Father in prayer, before He went to the source of pain.

How did Jesus deal with the pressures of life and ministry? See Matthew 14:15 - 25 He spent a few hours alone in His Father's presence in prayer.

v.2; Jesus has authority over all people, He is the One who gives eternal life.

v.3; Jesus says eternal life is to know God, and to have a relationship with Him.

v.4; Jesus glorified His Father, by finishing the work that the Father gave Him to do.

v.5; Jesus says, He is the eternal God, Creator (see Genesis 1:1), and the God of glory (see Isaiah 42:8).

SIX prayer principles to help us understand prayer:

- Pray the Word of God;** prayers are when we pray the scriptures.
- Prayer can be aloud or silent.** God knows your thoughts, God is listening.
- Prayer can be written or verbal.** Includes journaling or keeping a prayer diary.
- Prayer can be in words or songs.** It can be speaking or listening.
- Prayer can be short or long.** Short prayers, like crying out “help me, Lord.”
- Prayer can be public or private.** Public prayer can be over a meal in public.