



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS for the Week of April 6, 2025

See, I Am Doing a New Thing *Passing the Gospel Torch*

1. *“If you really want to know someone’s heart, listen to them pray.”* Did you grow up with a praying father or mother, or some other loved one? If so, how would you say their prayers impacted your life? What did their prayer life teach you about God?

If not, when was the first time you heard a prayer that stirred your heart or inspired you? How so?

2. *“If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies”* (Robert Murray M’Cheyne, 1813-1843). In **John 17** we are allowed a glimpse into the very heart of our Lord Jesus. **Read John 17:1-5.** What is the first thing that strikes you about these opening words of Jesus’ prayer?
3. What does it mean to “glorify” someone, according to the Bible?
4. Why do you think Jesus is so concerned about being “glorified?” Doesn’t this seem rather narcissistic or egotistical? Why or why not?
5. How does Jesus use the word “glorify” in a radically different way from the way it’s typically understood? What does this word mean to him? (**cf. John 12:23-33**)
6. What does Jesus mean in **verse 5**? What does this tell us about his very being, nature, and character? Why is this such a scandalous thing for him to say?
7. In **John 17:1-5**, Jesus prays for himself. In **17:6-19**, he prays for his disciples. In **17:20-26**, he prays for all believers (including you and me!). If we could graph out Jesus’ main priorities as he passes on the Gospel Torch to his people, we might list them like this:
 - 1) The GLORY of his Father

- 2) The PROTECTION of his people
- 3) The HOLINESS of his disciples
- 4) The MISSION of his church
- 5) The UNITY of his body

In our daily lives, how well do you think we prioritize what Jesus prioritizes?

Which of these priorities do you find to be the most challenging in your personal life? Why?

8. **Read John 17:13-19.** What does the holiness of Christ's disciples have to do with the mission of the church? Why do you think Jesus connects these two seemingly disparate subjects together in such an intimate way?
9. What do we learn about the true meaning of holiness from **John 17:15-19**? How does this differ from the Pharisees' understanding of holiness (or, that of the Essenes, or Sadducees)?
10. In **17:18**, Jesus prays: "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." As disciples of Jesus, it's not just *what* we say or do that matters, but *how* we say or do it. How, or in what specific fashion or manner, was Jesus sent into our world?
11. **Read John 17:20-26.** Here Jesus specifically prays for those who will believe in him through the faithful message of the disciples handed down from generation to generation. That means *you and me!* Why do you think the unity of the church is such a vital subject in Jesus' mind and heart?

In your opinion, how well is the body of Christ united today? How might we become more united?

Why do you think Jesus connects the unity of his body with the willingness of the world to believe the good news of the gospel (**cf. 17:20-21, 23**)?