

**Seventh Sunday of Easter
For Group Meetings from May 6 through May 12**

Prayer of the Day: Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER:

Share: How did last week's scripture (John 15:9-17) work in your life?

Mission: What was most satisfying about your ministry last week? Where do you see God at work? How did you participate in God's missional activity? ***How did inviting go last Saturday and Sunday? How many new people did you talk to?***

Hear: John 17:6-19

Explore Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. These are (still) Jesus' words at the last supper! He transitions from teaching to prayer which we call the High Priestly Prayer (John 17:1-26). What stands out to you? How would you summarize this portion of the prayer? Who is he praying for and what is he asking for?
2. What are Jesus' concerns for the disciples?
3. What are Jesus' hopes for the disciples?

Connect Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

4. Do you think God prays for us now? What do you think God's prayer would be for followers of Jesus in our 21st century context?
5. Jesus prayed a lot. He prayed alone and with his disciples. He taught us to pray. How has prayer been a powerful force in your life? How has prayer been a struggle in your life?
6. Jesus basically says we are "in this world but not of this world" – how does that look in everyday life of a Christian: how does that affect our decisions, actions, and lives?

Prepare: Memorize this verse: *"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."* (John 17:17). How do you hear God calling you?

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:

Obey: During this week follow through on your intentions.

Meditate: Read Psalm 1. How does this speak into your life?

Reflect: What have I learned in my week of living with this text? What can I share with my group when we next meet?

OUR MISSION TOGETHER: As a missional congregation we celebrate Christ's presence, invite people into a growing relationship with Jesus, and equip them to serve in a broken world.

Notes for ChristCare leaders:

Jesus' High Priestly Prayer or Farewell Prayer is his longest prayer! He prays for himself, his followers, the church, followers-to-be. It's very comprehensive! It's quite humbling to think that Jesus prayed and prays for us. There is a lot of mystery to prayer and lots we don't understand. Yet, Jesus still calls us to talk to God and give praise, confession, thanksgiving and petition for our lives and the lives of others, known and unknown. There is no right or wrong way to pray. It's a conversation with God! It can happen anywhere at anytime in many different forms. Jesus gives us the gift of prayer and promises that God listens to us through the Holy Spirit. It is humbling and powerful that we have a way to be connected to God given to us by Jesus. Jesus' prayer also gives us clues to his hopes and dreams for each of us, his church, and this world. God's dream of shalom, complete peace, lives on into our generations and Jesus calls us to join together as one to work toward peace in our lives, our homes, our countries and our world. Jesus says he sends us into the world. We sure do have a lot of work to do!! We can give thanks that Jesus is praying for our work in his name every step of the way!

Thanks be to God,
Pastor Andrea acain@desertcross.org

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
Who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified died and was buried;
He descended to the dead,
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen