

Preparation Questions
John 17.1-26
Jesus' mission prayer

Opener: What kind of answers would you get if you asked a selection of people in your workplace the following questions:

What was Jesus' purpose in coming to earth? What is the purpose of the Christian church?

In this chapter Jesus prays for himself (v1-5), his apostles (v6-19) and his future followers /the church (v20-26). In doing so, Jesus sums up what he's been teaching about his mission and plan in ch11-16 and in spells out what wants for himself, his apostles and the church. In much of the prayer, Jesus prays as though the Cross has already happened and he has already accomplished his mission on earth (eg. v4, v11).

Text 1: Take a close look at v1-5 and try to put in your own words **what** Jesus wants and **how** it is achieved.
(vs 1 & 5 match, what do they show us about what Jesus' main desire? vs 2 & 4 match, how do they show us why the Father will answer Jesus' prayer? What is Jesus' work? How does Jesus define 'eternal life' in v5?)

Text2: Take a close look at v6-19 and try to put in your own words **what** Jesus wants and **how** it is achieved.
(What do we learn about the Apostles from v6-10? Why is it important we know this? What is the key thing Jesus wants for the apostles in v11 – 19 and why? How do the Apostles relate to Jesus' overall mission?)

Text 3: Take a close look at v20-26 and try to put in your own words **what** Jesus wants and **how** it is achieved.
(Which two groups of people is Jesus praying for now? What does he pray for those who believe the Apostle's word? What impact will this have?)

Sum up: What have we seen in this passage about how Jesus' accomplishes his plan in the world? What are the key implications for those who follow him today?

Ones to keep chewing on:

What difference should this passage make to our day to day priorities and prayers? How would you explain to someone what the purpose of a Christian is, just from this passage?