

Answer Key:

Jesus' Prayer Shows...

- Heart
- Hope

Jesus prays 5 different prayers for us.

1. Protection
2. Unity
3. Joy
4. Purity
5. Mission

Challenge for You this Week!

I want to encourage you to read seven chapters in the book of John starting Monday and going through next Sunday. John 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20. You will have read the Easter story.

Walking with Jesus

Part 4

“The Heart of Jesus”

John 17: 1 NIV

"After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:"

Introductory Statement

The greatest moment of securing human freedom in history—the most significant image of mankind being set free—was not that of some dictator being overthrown or army being overcome, but that of Christ dying on the cross. The impact of his saving act was not limited to a single nation or a single generation, but spans all of history. To help us prepare to celebrate that event at Easter, we will consider Jesus' own prayer recorded in John 17:13–23. Jesus prayed knowing that he would soon die, and his prayer shows his heart and his hope. Jesus was praying for us at that time, and he is at God's side praying these same things for us now.

The greatest moment of human history is at this place – the cross of Jesus Christ!

Jesus' Prayer Shows...

- His _____!

John 17:20 NLT

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me because of their testimony."

- Our _____!

Romans 8:34 CEV

"Christ died and was raised to life, and now He is at God's right side, speaking to Him for us".

Ephesians 1:7 GNT

"For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God?"

When you look at this prayer He prayed the night before He died, when you see what is really important to Him, you realize what He wants to do in our life. You realize why there is a cross.

5 ways that Jesus is praying for you:

1. Give them _____.

John 17:15 NLT

"I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from

Matthew 6:13 NIV

"And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."

Ministry — *Dealing with life's troubles, trials, and pain can cause us to focus completely on ourselves rather than on God and on others. However, God wants us to rely on his power and the hope that he gives, and he wants us to be his witnesses to others. When we reach out to help and serve others, we demonstrate God's love for them as well as our love for God. How are you serving others? Is there an area of need where God is leading you to serve? Make a commitment to minister to someone else this week, despite your personal circumstances.*

5 ways that Jesus is praying for you:

2. Give them _____!

John 17:21 Living Bible

"My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind, just as you and I are, Father..."

John 13:35 Message

"This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other."

Romans 15:5 NIV

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus."

Fellowship—*As believers we are all members of Christ's family, the church. What are some ways that we can enhance the unity of our church? What are the issues in our group or church for which we need to pray for unity? What personal steps should we take to achieve this desired unity?*

5 ways that Jesus is praying for you:

3. Give them _____!

John 17:13 NCV

"I am coming to you now. But I pray these things while I am still in the world so that these followers can have all of my joy in them."

John 16:20-21 NIV

"You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world."

Worship — *Jesus prayed for His joy to be ours. We will be joyful when we fully realize what God has done for us, and we should express that joy through worship. Is there anything preventing you from joyfully worshipping God? Ask the group to join you in prayer to remove any obstacles from your joyful worship.*

5 ways that Jesus is praying for you:

4. Give them _____!

John 17:17 NLT

"Make them pure and holy by teaching them Your words of truth."

John 17:19 TEV

"And for their sake I dedicate myself to You, in order that they, too, may be truly dedicated to You."

Titus 1:15 Today's Living Bible

"A person who is pure of heart sees goodness and purity in everything; but a person whose own heart is evil and untrusting finds evil in everything, for his dirty mind and rebellious heart color all he sees and hears."

Discipleship— *We are not born with a pure heart, and we don't suddenly get one when we become believers. As we spend time in God's Word, with God's people, and in prayer and worship, our hearts become transformed little by little. Our goal is to have a heart like Jesus. What we focus on will determine how quickly we will grow toward spiritual maturity. If we focus on the negative things we see and our negative emotions, our hearts will not become more pure. Where are you focusing your attention? Are the things you think about and do helping you to develop a pure heart, or are they slowing down your spiritual growth? Take a careful and honest look at what you are focusing on and share with your group the changes you need to make.*

5 ways that Jesus is praying for you:

5. Give them a _____!

John 17:18 Message

"In the same way that You gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world."

John 17:23 NCV

"Then the world will know that You sent me and that You loved them just as much as You loved me."

John 17:24 NCV

"Father, I want these people that You gave me to be with me where I am."

John 17:3 NLT

"And this is the way to have eternal life—to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one You sent to earth."

Mission — *Whom do you know who needs to hear God's offer of eternal life? How has God prepared you to deliver that message? When we consider what Jesus endured in order to open a way for us to come to God, what could possibly deter us from sharing this way with others? Identify at least one person you can invite to church with you, and ask the group to pray for a positive response.*

Closing Statement:

Getting ready for Easter involves being sure that you are personally ready and then allowing God to work through you to impact others.

Getting ready for Easter...