

Marinating In God's Word:

John 17

Jesus is the master teacher in all matters, including prayer. So, during the fall we're returning again and again to learn from him about prayer, both through what he taught and how he prayed himself. Today we get to learn not from how he described prayer, but from how he prayed.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

Is there someone whose prayers have been formative for you – not teaching about prayer, but actual prayers? Who? What is it about his/her prayers that strikes you?

Jesus was down to his last few hours with his disciples in his earthly ministry, and here he prays for them and us. What affirmations does he offer? What petitions does he offer? Of those petitions, do you see any that have come to pass, partly or fully?

Jesus prays repeatedly here that we “may be one” – that we might have true unity. Given the divisions among us, then and now, that’s a bold prayer! Has his prayer been answered (at all, or in part)? What does Christian unity look like?

In Hebrews 7:25 we are told that Jesus is still praying for us! What do you suppose he might have prayed for you this week? What does it mean that you are not just the pray-er, but the pray-ee (i.e., that Jesus is praying for you)? What impact could that have on your prayers?