



**Lenten Series 2018**

**RISEN SAVIOR LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

*Connect Group Participants Guide*



## **Table of Contents**

The Full Extent.....	4
You Know the Way .....	9
No Greater Love .....	13
The Spirit of Truth .....	17
The Time Has Come.....	21

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## Jesus, the Only Way

This Participants Guide is designed to take you and your fellow Connect Group members on a journey to a closer relationship with Jesus. Through sermons and group discussion, we'll explore our current relationship with Jesus, how He lives in and with us today, and why He spoke His last Words to us. Do you desire Jesus' presence in your life? Do you yearn for greater closeness to Him? Are you willing to continue your faith journey all the way to the cross? Join us as we spend time with Jesus in our **Lent 2018** series.

### Session 1: The Full Extent

#### Opening Question:

What do you look for in a leader?

Rank these qualities in order of their importance:

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| ___ Tolerance    | ___ Task Oriented   |
| ___ Motivation   | ___ Unselfish       |
| ___ Courage      | ___ Flexible        |
| ___ Initiative   | ___ Pragmatic       |
| ___ Intelligence | ___ Action Oriented |

Discuss why you ranked the top 3 as you did.

#### Read John 13

*It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, **he now showed them the full extent of his love**. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a*

*basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

*He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.*

*When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.'*

*"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."*

*After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the*

*dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.*

*When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.*

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!*



The Passover Feast was at hand, and the hour appointed by God had come. Jesus was preparing “to leave this world and go to the Father.” He was preparing to be our Passover Lamb, through whose blood we escape eternal death. Jesus used the occasion to demonstrate his complete, unwavering love for His followers, a love He bore to the very end.

To show His deep love for His disciples, Jesus rose from the dinner and served them as a slave would serve his master and his master’s guests. He called special attention to His ministry as a servant. When God does the work of a slave for us, that’s love!

- 1. What is the difference between servants and masters?**
- 2. Who is one person in your life that has demonstrated what it means to “wash feet”? What did he or she do?**
- 3. Peter initially rejected Jesus’ washing his feet. When and why do you find it difficult to allow others to serve you?**
- 4. In what ways does our society instill in us a desire to be served?**
- 5. In your family, what would it mean to practice foot washing?**
  - a. To be available to meet needs**
  - b. To consider no job too menial**
  - c. To be sensitive to someone who is having a bad day**
  - d. To show our affection more**
  - e. To spend time just listening**
  - f. To be patient and forgiving**
  - g. Other**

As a parting legacy, Jesus gave His disciples a “new old” command. Moses had told the people already that Yahweh (I AM) required them to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18). The word “new” here means “fresh” and having new quality. Jesus’ command was to love one another as he had loved them. From that night on, Jesus’ disciples were to practice love in the light of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross.

That love is called agape. It sacrifices for others. How will people know we are disciples of Christ? Because, we practice that kind of love for one another.

**6. How is God glorified by our Christ-like behavior?**

**7. How does Jesus’ washing of the disciples feet portray the “full extent of His love”?**

<b>PERSONAL REFLECTION</b>
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**8. What behaviors do you exhibit that do not show Jesus’ love and do not glorify God?**

**9. Who is someone you need to love as Christ has loved you?**

**10. What will you do this week to let them know you care about them?**

*You cannot wash the feet of a dirty world if you refuse to touch it.*

*Erwin McManus*

## Session 2: You Know the Way

### Opening Question:

What is it about your home that makes it feel like “home” to you?

### Read John 14

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **You know the way** to the place where I am going.”*

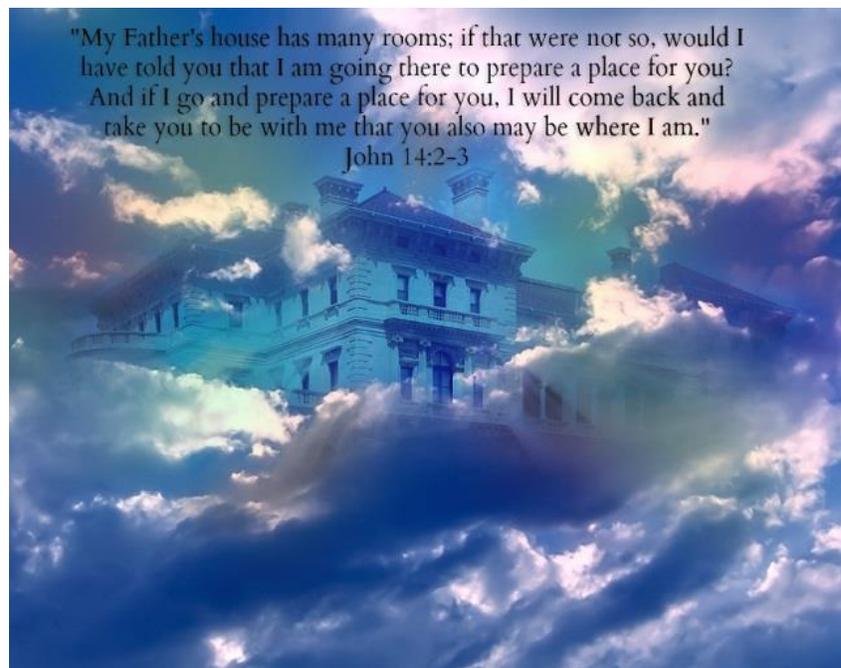
*Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”*

*Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”*

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

*Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.*

*“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.”*



**1. Identify and discuss the statements in these passages that describe your relationship with God.**

Jesus' predictions troubled the disciples, so He spoke to calm their fears. He encouraged them to continue to believe in God and in His Son – to believe and live. For those who believe, God's promise is eternal. Jesus was on the road to glory, for Himself and for us.

Jesus pictured a house, His Father's house, with many rooms. He was leaving his disciples in order to prepare a place for them in the Father's house. Furthermore, He would come back and take them to the place He prepared, so they would be together again. Then He added, "You know the way to the place where I am going."

We can understand Jesus' meaning by remembering what He was about to do, namely, die on the cross and rise from the dead. Human beings by nature have no place in God's house because sin has barred the way. Jesus' death would atone for sins and prepare the room. His resurrection would signal that all was ready.

All Jesus' disciples have a place waiting for them with the Father. Jesus comes by His Word to invite us in. He will return at the second coming to welcome us home.

Those disciples knew the way. Jesus had been showing them for three years. But they were slow to catch on, as we often are.

**2. What worries you? How do you usually handle the worries that trouble your heart?**

**3. What people, things, or experiences in life bring you comfort and peace**

On the eve of the most violent day of Jesus' earthly life and the most heart-wrenching day for His disciples since He called them, Jesus gave them peace.

That was not a contradiction between promise and reality. Jesus' peace is not the same as the world's peace. It does not depend on harmony between countries and tranquility in families. It isn't as fragile as the next temper flare-up or grab for power. It isn't disturbed by plans gone awry. Even Jesus' arrest, trial, torture, and crucifixion couldn't cancel it.

Jesus' peace calms troubled hearts and makes fearful hearts confident. His peace transcends human understanding and sustains us in all conditions. His peace keeps us at one with God and serene in our salvation. We need not be afraid or overcome by troubled hearts. We have peace from Jesus. Nothing can disturb that peace as long as we love Jesus.

- 4. What is the difference between how Jesus gives peace and how the world does?**
  
- 5. On a scale from 1 ("smooth sailing") to 10 ("furious storm"), what is your "peace" quotient now?**
  
- 6. Do you know the way to Jesus? How?**

<b>PERSONAL REFLECTION</b>
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- 7. What can you do today to experience and enjoy the peace Jesus has given you?**
  
- 8. What can you do this week to deepen your relationship with Jesus?**

## Session 3: No Greater Love

### Opening Question:

**What are the marks of a true friendship?**

### Read John 15

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*

*You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

*"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **Greater love has no one than this,** that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*

*This is my command: Love each other. "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.*

*Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'*



*"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.*

- 1. Why did Jesus call His disciples friends?**
- 2. What did Jesus want His disciples to remember? Why?**

At the root of the amazing truth that allows us to be united with Jesus as branches to a vine lies the incomparable love of God. It's the love the Father has had for the Son from the beginning. It's the love that prompted the Father to send the Son (John 3:16) and prompted the Son to do His Father's will. As the Father loved the Son, so the Son loved His disciples and has invited them to remain in His love. All, then, are His disciples who by faith remain in His love.

Our Savior gives us His own example of what it means to remain in His love. It means keeping God's commandments as a show of that love at work in our lives, just as Jesus kept all of the Father's commands. The fruits of our faith will demonstrate the faith in our hearts.

When that happens, the Lord rejoices. Yes, it brings joy to God when we live in His love by faith and produce fruits of faith. At the same time, we can experience no fuller joy than to live this way in the Savior's love.

Christ's love for us produces love in us. So Jesus could again summarize the commands of God in this single command: "Love each other as I have loved you." We can show that love in many ways, but none greater than to give up our lives for our friends. Real love will make the ultimate sacrifice for others, as Jesus was about to do the next day.

**3. What is the greatest manifestation of love?**

**4. When is it difficult to develop and maintain a friendship with Jesus?**

**5. Do you struggle with loving others the way Jesus has loved you? What are some ways you can struggle less with this?**

When we believe in Jesus and live our faith, we don't endear ourselves to the world that doesn't believe. The unbelieving world hated Jesus and plotted His death. The unbelieving world will hate Jesus' followers too.

We can get along with the world, and unbelievers will like us, if we join their ways. But Jesus has chosen us from the world. We no longer belong to the ways of unbelief. When that becomes evident, the world turns on us just as it did Jesus. Those that hate us don't know Jesus because they don't know the Father who sent Him. People cannot know the Father without the Son nor the Son without the Father. Those that put Jesus to death just didn't know God.

**6. Are you friends with the world? Explain.**

**7. What does a friend of Jesus do in the world?**

**8. How does Jesus' friendship with us sustain us amid the world's influences?**

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

**9. Which friendships of yours are sacrificial? How so?**

**10. How can you be a better friend of Jesus beginning today?**

*The greatest gift of life is  
friendship and I have received it.  
Hubert H. Humphrey*

## Session 4: The Spirit of Truth

### Opening Question:

**Who was the best counselor you ever had? What was it about this person that made him or her so special?**

### Read John 16

*"All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you. "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.*

*"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."*

*Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."*

*Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. 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. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything.*

*I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."*



*Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." "You believe at last!" Jesus answered. "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

## **1. How would you paraphrase the three goals of the Spirit's work?**

In the previous two chapters of John, Jesus begins to tell the disciples of a Counselor that He will send to them after He is gone:

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you.”

John 14:26

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”

John 15:26

## **2. What does Jesus say this Counselor will do?**

In the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of John, Jesus tells us that the Counselor will also convict the world of guilt, and the unbelieving world would stand condemned. The Counselor, i.e., Holy Spirit, convicts the world in respect to sin, righteousness, and judgement. The Spirit's work for the chosen children of God is to lead them in all truth for their salvation. The effect on those who reject the truth in Christ is just the opposite. Those who do not repent of their sins and believe are convicted.

Just as Jesus told the disciples nothing but what came from the Father, so the Spirit would speak only what came from the Father and the Son. And he would tell them things still to come, prophecies they would write down also for us to learn. So God's truth for us would be revealed. So we too would learn what Jesus' work has meant and what lies ahead for us and for the world.

The work of the Spirit glorifies Jesus because it takes what comes from Jesus and tells it to us. What comes from Jesus is also the Father's, so we learn the whole council of God by the Spirit.

## **3. What role do Christians and the church play in prodding the conscience of the world?**

**4. How does the Holy Spirit teach believers? How does He teach you?**

**5. What is your relationship with this Spirit teacher/helper? With what attitude do you receive His advice?**

The Spirit reveals the reality of God. He keeps us connected with Jesus. He is God with the Father and the Son.

Jesus was assuring the disciples that when He had gone to the Father, they would not be alone. Jesus would go through crucifixion and death. He would suffer for the guilt of our sins. But then He would rise, and sin and death would no longer rule us. So His life now counts for our life, just as His death counted for our death. And by the Holy Spirit - that Jesus sent to believers after His resurrection (on Pentecost and through our Baptisms) - we believe and live that life now.

**6. Why is it easier to believe when we understand?**

**7. How is the Holy Spirit working in you to give you greater insight into the Word of God? Share an example.**

**8. When were you baptized? How has the Holy Spirit continued to shape and direct your life?**

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

**9. Have you been baptized? If not, please talk to a Pastor about how you, too, can receive the Holy Spirit.**

**10. Do you trust the counsel of the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?**

*Trying to do the Lord's work under your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious, of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.*

*Corrie Ten Boom*

<b>Session 5:      The Time Has Come</b>
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**Opening Question:**

**How is the United States an example of unity?**

**Read John 17**

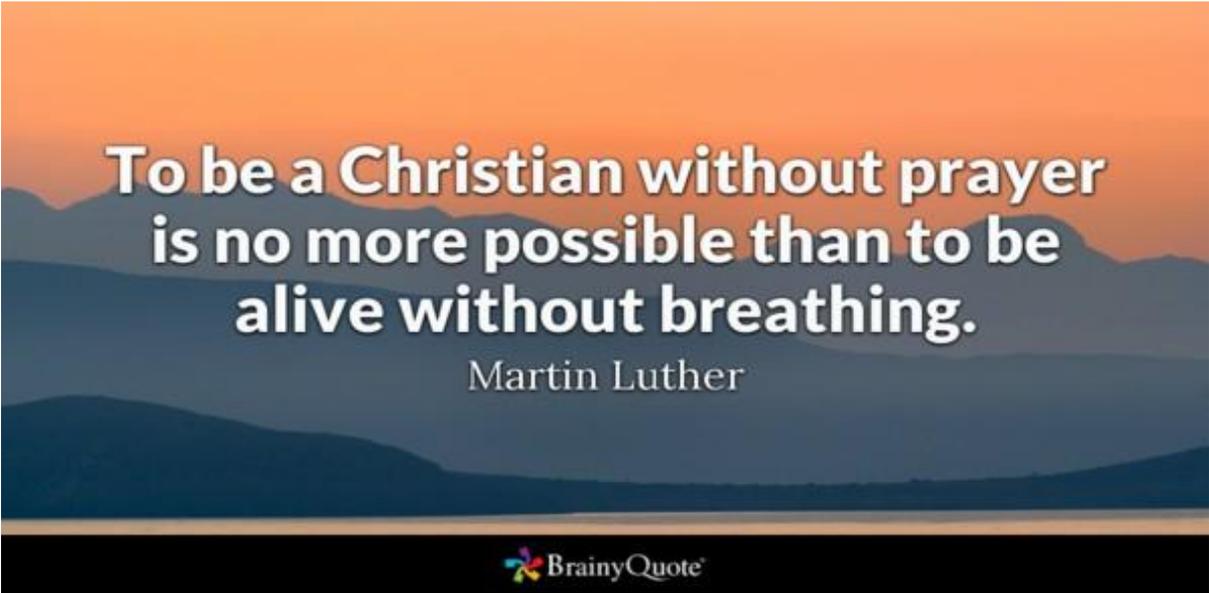
*After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, **the time has come**. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

*"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of*

*the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.*

*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."*

- 1. In this passage, what event is it now “time for”?**
- 2. What kind of unity exists between the Father and Jesus that we ought to copy?**
- 3. How are your prayers for others like and unlike Jesus’ prayer?**



**To be a Christian without prayer  
is no more possible than to be  
alive without breathing.**

Martin Luther



The last thing Jesus did before leaving for the Garden of Gethsemane was lift His eyes heavenward and pray aloud to God the Father. This prayer has been called Jesus' high priestly prayer because with it Jesus functioned as high priest and interceded to the Father, for the disciples first and then for all believers. It was a prayer such as only the Son of God could pray, truly the Lord's prayer.

Jesus began praying for himself and the mission set before Him. He acknowledged that the time had come for the culmination of His ministry and the fulfillment of His purpose. He called for the Father to glorify His Son so that the Son might glorify Him, i.e., the work of salvation.

Jesus then prayed for His disciples. It was not the time for Him to pray for the world. The disciples were his special charge, and they needed help and strength to face what was coming, and place them in the Father's care.

**4. What was Jesus' main request of His Father for the disciples?**

**5. Do your prayers reflect the short-term urgent or long-term important needs that people have? If Jesus prayed only for the urgent needs of His disciples, how might His prayer be different?**

Jesus didn't pray only for the disciples with Him. He prayed for those who continue to come to faith in Jesus through His Word. Jesus saw the process as on-going. Already He had used His disciples to preach and teach the Word (Matthew 11:1; Mark 6:12; Luke 9:6). But more was to come. The great Day of Pentecost lay ahead when the Spirit would lead them into all truth. The Spirit would guide them to write down their Word, and God would preserve it in the New Testament Scriptures for us to read today. In this way, He would build His church (Ephesians 2:20).

Jesus, in His all-knowing power as God, saw it all and prayed for those who would come to faith in Him through the apostles' Word. This part of His prayer includes us directly and connects us with the apostles.

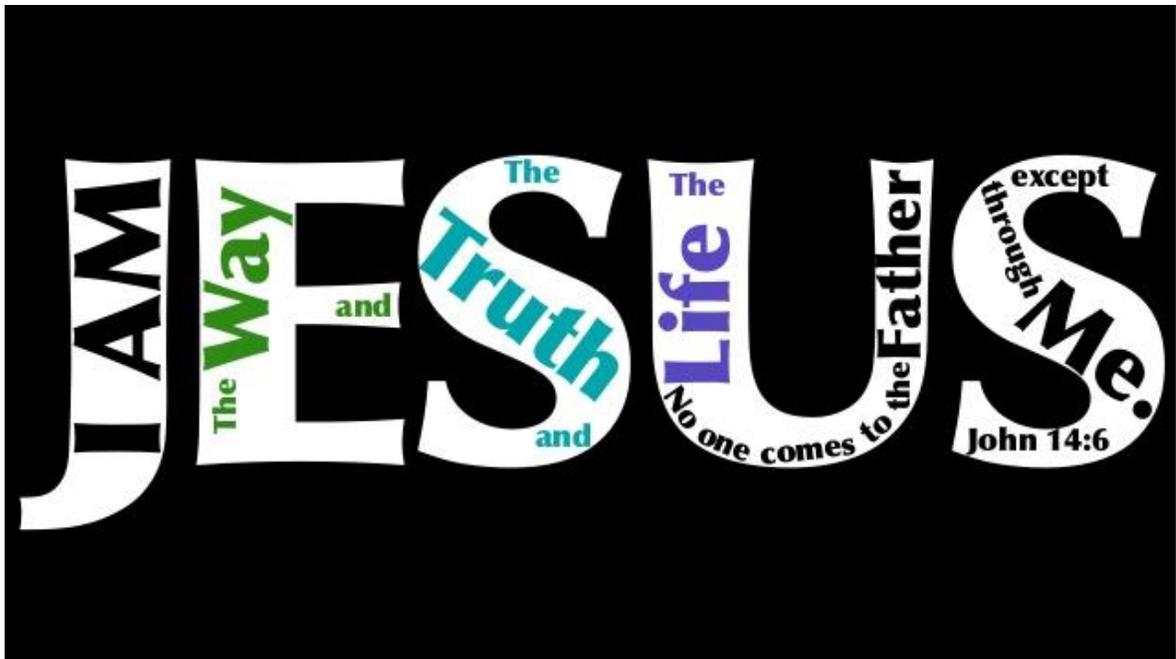
**6. Why did Jesus want all believers to be "one"?**

**7. What can you do to promote unity among fellow Christians?  
Why is this important?**

**8. How can you be a testimony of God's love to the world?**

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

9. What is one thing you can do this week to strengthen your bond with other Christians?
10. Pray Jesus' prayer in verses 6-19, substituting your name in place of "they/them" or any reference to the disciples. How does this change your perspective of your relationship with Jesus?



*Don't forget to pray today  
Because God didn't forget to wake you  
up this morning*

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## **HOST** a Connect Group

- **H**eat for people
- **O**pen your home
- **S**erve a snack
- **T**urn on the TV

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