

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

JESUS' LAST NIGHT

SERIES THEME//

In the lead up to Easter Sunday, we will spend time learning from Jesus' final words to his disciples in John 13-20. Jesus, ever the creative and engaging teacher, uses several rich images to help his disciples understand who He is, how He gives life, and why He will never leave them. We will explore each of these images. This Lenten series will give us a chance to see what was most important to Jesus as he spent his final night on earth, culminating in Holy Week. Each image He calls us to behold reveals the kind of people He's helping us to become.

SERMON | CHURCH (JOHN 17:20-26)

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

SERMON THEME//

Jesus calls us into relationships only God can create and every heart longs to experience.

OPENING UP//

LEADER//

Start with prayer! Ask that God the Holy Spirit would open our hearts to the His Word. Ask that He would use your time as a group to grow your relationship with God and with each other.

1. Read Psalm 133. This week's sermon spotlights Jesus' prayer for unity in the church. Share some times throughout your life when you've experienced genuine unity and describe what it was like.
2. What kinds of behaviors undermine unity?
3. Conversely, what sorts of attitudes, behaviors, and activities build unity? Which ones have you experienced in your own life?

DIGGING DEEPER//

LEADER//

Start by reading the passage Pastor Adam preached on, then for context read all of John 17. Try splitting up the reading so that everyone in your group reads a couple verses.

JOHN 17:20-26 (ESV)

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name,

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and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

- What stood out to you as you read this passage of scripture?
- Do you have any questions about this passage?

WATCH THE SERMON DISCUSSION VIDEO//

THE WORD PREACHED. THE WORD LIVED. //

1. Jesus invites believers into a unity that echoes the unity of the trinity - a life of joy and delight. Have you ever experienced a moment of deep delight in the presence of God? What was it like?
2. Do you believe that we are meant to have experiences of joy and delight in the Lord more regularly? Why or why not? If so, what prevents it from happening?
3. How is the joy that we're meant to experience in the life of the Church different than simply "having a good time" or "getting what I wanted out of the service"?
4. Is your concept of Christianity challenged, changed, and/or refined by the reality that joy is meant to be a central experience in the Christian life?
5. How can we cultivate joy in the Lord together?
6. Jesus prayed that we would be united as the people of God so that the body of Christ would be an undeniable demonstration of the gospel. How does our unity demonstrate the good news of the gospel?
7. As a Growth Group, how can we become sensitive to behaviors that undermine our unity in Christ?
8. What are some practical principles for fighting disunity we can hold one another accountable to as a Growth Group?
9. Beyond calling one another to accountability for acts that undermine unity, how can we as a Growth Group actively build Christian unity?

#SHAREHOPE //

- Let's check in - How is everyone doing at sharing hope? Have you been praying for the lost in your life as we lead up to Easter?
- Who are you going to invite? How can we pray for those people today?

CLOSE IN PRAYER //

LEADER//

As you close in prayer, take some time to receive prayer requests from the group. Follow up on previous prayer requests by asking about them.

In addition to praying over your group's prayer requests, pray that your Growth Group would actively apply the scriptures to their lives. Pray that God would continue to unite your group around the gospel. Finally, pray that God would open doors for you to share hope and invite someone to hear the gospel preached at Peace Church this Easter.