

LESSON 8

JESUS' GREAT PRAYER

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that we bring glory to Him so that Jesus might be glorified.
2. To understand that we will be sanctified and the church must be unified.
3. To understand that the word is evangelized.

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

(Hebrews 4:16)

PRAYER

Hallelujah, in the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Dear Lord, we thank You for granting us this wonderful Sabbath day so that we may come before You to worship You. Lord, we pray that You help us to glorify You and to do Your will every day. Please protect and guide us so that we can grow up healthy and happy. Please remind us when we sin against You and forgive our sins. Lord, please help us get along with everyone around us, including our parents, siblings, church brothers and sisters, and friends at school. Please help us to overcome temptations. Please prepare our hearts so that we can concentrate and learn Your word in class today, and help us to remember the lesson and act it out in our everyday lives. May all the glory be unto Your name. Amen.



Overview

1. Jesus' Great Prayer (John 17)

- We bring glory to Him so that Jesus might be glorified.
- We will be sanctified.
- The church must be unified.
- The word is evangelized.

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One True God

3. Life Application

- Jesus Christ Is Our Spiritual High Priest
- Jesus' Great Prayer

4. Activity

- Vocabulary Detective
- Four Corners



Background Knowledge for Teachers

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, He responded with a model prayer, usually called "The Lord's Prayer." But, if we turn to John, chapter 17, we can find the high priestly prayer of the Lord Jesus. John, chapter 17 is a chapter which one may perhaps characterize truly as unequalled in depth and scope in all of the Scriptures. Studying this prayer reveals Christ's perfect will for us. This is exactly our privilege in John, chapter 17. The Lord has enabled us to turn our eyes to His praying, and when we finish listening to Him pray, we will know what is on His agenda. This is so exciting! When we read John, chapter 17, we discover four things.

1. We bring glory to Him that Jesus might be glorified (vv. 1, 5). We discover His intense desire that He be glorified. How do we do this? We do so by making sure our actions reflect well on our Savior. When people gain a taste of heaven by sampling the righteous deeds and attitudes we display, Jesus is glorified.
2. We will be sanctified (vv. 11, 15). Repeatedly throughout His prayer we find that the heartbeat of Jesus is for God's people to be sanctified. Jesus' desires that the people of God should be holy, righteous, sanctified, and set apart from the world.
3. The church will be unified (vv. 21-23). God desires for His church to be unified. What does He mean? He is talking about the spiritual unity of all true members of the body of Christ. Do we lack unity among believers?

4. The word is evangelized (v. 18). Why did Jesus come into the world? To seek and to save that which was lost. And why are we sent into the world? To seek and to save that which is lost. In the second half of verse 21, Jesus asked the Father that the church might be unified so that the world may believe that He sent Him. The Father had sent Jesus from heaven to earth to redeem a people for His very own. Jesus' heart beat for evangelism and missionary outreach, and He desires that all people might be saved.

Conclusion

We need to bathe ourselves in the Lord's deepest concerns. One of the best ways to do that is to meditate and understand His prayer in John, chapter 17. So, here is the question: If Jesus Christ is God, why does He have to pray? This is the answer: When He walked upon this earth, Jesus lived in obedience and depended upon the Father. He did this to give us an example of how to live (Heb 5:7-8). So if Jesus Christ, with all His power and perfection, made prayer a priority in His life, then, we should also make a place for prayer in our lives as well.

We can see the importance of the Great Prayer by focusing on the time and place it was said. It was spoken during the night on which Jesus was betrayed, inside the house where He had the Last Supper and had washed His disciples' feet (Jn 18:1; Jn 13). It happened after He had taught His faithful disciples plainly, especially about heaven, His second coming, and the coming Holy Spirit as the Helper and guide to the truth (Jn 14:1-4, 15-18, 26, 28; 16:5-15, 25). At that time, He also commanded them to abide in Him, the True Vine, through love and bearing fruit, because of the coming tribulation when the world would hate them (Jn 15-16:4). It was as though this was done to reinforce all of His teachings to His disciples and to ask God to keep them (Jn 17:11). Immediately after the Great Prayer, Jesus and His disciples went out to the garden to pray (this time, a prayer of sorrow and anguish because of the suffering which He knew He was about to go through as the sacrificial Lamb—cf. Mt 26:38; Lk 22:44).

It is advised that the teacher should understand the role of Jesus as the High Priest as described in the book of Hebrews. Here is a summary of the passages in Hebrews as quoted from Bible Study Guide: Philemon and Hebrews, published by True Jesus Church Department of Literary Ministry (2001), page 19:

Christ the High Priest

Like the earthly high priests, Christ was appointed by God as the High Priest (5:4,5) to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins (5:3; 8:2,3). Unlike the earthly high priests, Christ was sinless (7:26), became the High Priest in the order of Melchizedek (5:6,10; 6:20; 7:17), was appointed with an oath (7:20-21), offered His own body as a perfect sacrifice once for all (7:27; 10:12), lives forever and sanctifies us forever (7:24,28; 10:14).

Christ has entered the heavenly sanctuary on our behalf, granting us the privilege to draw near to God through His blood (10:19-22). He is a High Priest who is merciful and sympathizes with our weakness (2:17; 4:15). Thus we may "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (4:16).

Above all, He is the source of our eternal salvation (5:9), the author and finisher of our faith (12:2). He continues to intercede for us (7:25) and has perfected forever those who are being sanctified (10:14). Therefore, by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the perfect and ultimate High Priest, we have the assurance of salvation as an anchor for the soul (6:19).

The purpose of a priest is to be a mediator between man and God, especially to pray to God on behalf of man. In John, chapter 17, Jesus, the perfect High Priest, prayed to the heavenly Father on behalf of His disciples and of all the believers who are to come. The Great Prayer was said for our edification also, that we His disciples could know His perfect will for us. As we read the words of our High Priest Jesus in the Great Prayer, we remind ourselves that this is His prayer for us forever, as He continues to make intercession for us as High Priest in heaven (Heb 7:24-25).



Reaching Out to Your Students

E2 students probably have already had a lot of experience in church praying in the spirit, especially for the Holy Spirit. At this age, some of them may already have received the Holy Spirit, but if they have not, they are usually taught to concentrate on just one thing during prayer, which is asking for the Holy Spirit. In the minds of the students, probably little emphasis is put on prayer in understanding. However, one of the purposes of prayer in understanding is to edify the church (1 Cor 14:19). When we gather and pray in understanding, whether it be lunch grace or the prayer at the beginning of class, if we listen carefully to the words of the prayer, we will be edified, and when we all say, "Amen," at the end of the prayer, it means that we all agree that what we have just prayed is true and sincere.

Ask your students at the beginning of the lesson to listen carefully to the words of the prayer in understanding that you say, and quiz them by asking them what they have learned from the prayer. Let your students know that when we pray in understanding, we use words so that everyone can understand and be edified, or learn something good from it. Tell them that one way to help them concentrate better in their prayer in spirit is to think of a prayer in understanding and talk to God as if they were saying a prayer in understanding. Finally, tell them that today we will read a prayer of Jesus that He said in understanding that had powerful words that would help His disciples in ancient times as well as us today.

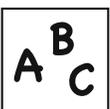


Opener

5 Minutes

In the last few lessons, we have learned about prayer. First, we talked about the meaning of prayer. Boys and girls, can you tell me what is the meaning of prayer? [Let students respond freely.] Then, we talked about the Lord's Prayer, which is something that we recite a lot after prayer in tongues. Boys and girls, can you tell me some of the important lessons you learned from the Lord's Prayer? [Let students respond freely.]

Today, we'll learn about Jesus' Great Prayer. Did you know that Jesus prayed while He was in the world? Jesus is God, but why did He have to pray? [Let students respond, if you want. Otherwise, just continue.] Jesus is indeed God, but while in the world, He had a physical body, just like every one of us, so He was limited by time and space like us. What does it mean to be limited by time and space? It means that you can only be in one place at one time, you can't travel backwards or forwards in time, and you can't suddenly disappear from one place and appear in another instantly. It means that, while He was in the world, Jesus started out as a baby and grew up into a child and then an adult as time passed by. To go from place to place, He walked around. It was only after Jesus rose from the dead that He was able to appear and disappear. While in the flesh, Jesus needed the help of the heavenly Father to overcome His difficulties, and that is why He prayed. Jesus prayed for Himself whenever He was preaching and healing people so that He would have power, and He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane before His crucifixion so that He would be able to face the pain of crucifixion.



Vocabulary

glorify: to reveal or make clearer the glory of God by one's actions; to give praise to God

authority: the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience

manifested: shown

son of perdition: a sinner who refuses to repent and has died, and thus is eternally condemned (in this case, Judas Iscariot)

fulfilled: completed; satisfied and happy

sanctify: to make a person holy

foundation of the

world: the time in the beginning when God created the world

declare: to say something with emphasis; to announce



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

The Great Prayer of Jesus that we will learn about today is very different from the other prayers of Jesus. In this prayer, Jesus is not praying for God's help merely because He is in the flesh. Rather, He is praying as the High Priest. Let's fill in Worksheet #1.

FOR TEACHERS

In this lesson, the Life Application section has been integrated into the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching. Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students. Write the chart on the board. Ask the students to turn to the Bible verses and volunteer the answers. If the students are having difficulty finding the answers, guide them along and provide the answers.

Boys and girls, we can learn from this worksheet that Jesus is our spiritual High Priest, because He sacrificed Himself for our sins and now lives forever in heaven. Because of Jesus' perfect sacrifice that can wash away all of our sins, we no longer need priests like in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, ordinary people dared not to pray to God directly without the priest being there to make a sacrifice for their sins at the temple, but now in the New Testament, because of Jesus Christ, each one of us can come boldly to God and pray to Him anytime, anywhere! What a wonderful Savior is Jesus Christ our Lord!

We also learned that the high priest should pray for the people. Jesus, our spiritual High Priest, prayed a Great Prayer recorded in John, chapter 17.

FOR TEACHERS

Give Worksheet #2 to the students. First, go over the vocabulary in Worksheet #2 by following the instructions in Activity #1: Vocabulary Detective. At the end of the activity, be sure to go over the answers and ask the students if they have any questions about the vocabulary words.

Boys and girls, please open your Bibles to John, chapter 17. It was the night before Jesus was to be crucified. Do you remember what happened on that night? [Let students answer freely.] Now, Jesus and His disciples had just finished eating the Last Supper, Jesus had already washed His disciples' feet, and He was telling them very important teachings. Finally, before going out to the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed this Great Prayer as the spiritual High Priest before performing the sacrifice. In this prayer, we will learn about the Lord Jesus' will for us as His believers and His disciples. Let's read John, chapter 17; this whole chapter is Jesus speaking, and He is praying to God as our spiritual High Priest.

FOR TEACHERS

Using an audio Bible here is highly recommended, but if one is not readily available, then ask the students to take turns reading. While the students are reading, divide the board into four areas: glorified, sanctified, unified, and evangelized.

Boys and girls, after reading this passage, can you find some of the things that Jesus prayed for? [Let the students answer freely while you write their answers on the board, putting them into the appropriate sections.] Great observations, everyone! Now let's look deeper into Jesus' Great Prayer.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Worksheet #3 to the students now and go over the instructions.

First, let's do Column A as a class. From verses 1 and 5, what did Jesus pray about? (Jesus desires to be glorified.) That's right! Please write "glorified" in the blank. [Lead the students to fill in the rest of the blanks in Column A: sanctified, unified, and evangelize.] Great job, everyone! In Column B, please write how we can fulfill Jesus' desires. Let's go over the first example. Looking at our vocabulary list, what does glorify mean? That's right, it means to praise God. So, we can fulfill Jesus' desires to be glorified by praising Him. Now, let's look at Column C. What can we do to glorify or praise Him? The example says, "I can sing hymns aloud often to glorify God." What else can we do to glorify God? Please write them down.

FOR TEACHERS

See if the students have any questions about this worksheet, and then ask them to complete the rest on their own. You may need to walk around the classroom to see if they need any help. If some of the students finish Worksheet #3 faster than others, ask them to help the students who are still working on it.

Boys and girls, we have learned these few weeks about prayer, including the meaning of prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and today, Jesus' Great Prayer. We have learned that prayer is so precious because we have this privilege to come before God and tell Him whatever is in our hearts. Finally, please open your Bibles to Hebrews 4:16, which is your memory verse, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

This lesson emphasizes the belief that there is only one true God, Jesus Christ, who is one with the heavenly Father. Jesus Christ was with God in the beginning and was God (Jn 1:1), but was not manifest to the world until about 2000 years ago when He became flesh to come into the world (1 Pet 1:20). As fully God and fully human, Jesus had the authority of God, but He still needed to pray to God. He did this as an example for us and to encourage us with the words of His prayer. In the Great Prayer, Jesus Christ executes His power as the High Priest to pray to God as the mediator for the believers.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

True or False/Multiple Choice/Fill In the Blank

1. **Jesus is our spiritual High Priest because He sacrificed Himself for our sins.** True.
2. **The High Priest of the New Testament must be a son of Aaron.** False; the High Priest in the New Testament is our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. **It's okay if the members in church don't get along, as long as they all believe in God.** False; God wants the church to be unified.
4. **Jesus prayed the Great Prayer after the Last Supper where He washed His disciples' feet and before going to the garden of Gethsemane.** True.
5. **High priests in the Old Testament were not perfect because _____.**
 - a. They had sins themselves.
 - b. They didn't live forever.
 - c. Both A and B.
6. **Another word for glorify is _____ (praise).**
7. **Another word for sanctify is to be _____ (holy).**
8. **Another word for evangelize is _____ (preach).**



Activity

1. Vocabulary Detective / 2. Four Corners

10-15 Minutes

1. Vocabulary Detective

Objective: To reinforce the vocabulary words.

Instructions

1. Print out or write each vocabulary word and its definition in large font on separate pages.
2. Underline the words that the students should fill in on Worksheet #2.
3. Post these "clues" (each page) in random areas around the classroom before class starts.
4. When you get to Worksheet #2 in the lesson, instruct the students to bring their worksheet and a pencil with them, and walk around the classroom to find the answers to fill in the blanks for the vocabulary words.
5. When the students are finished, go over the answers.

2. Four Corners

Objective: To emphasize how we can live out the different aspects of Jesus' Great Prayer.

Preparation

1. Write "Glorify God," "Be sanctified," "Church is unified," and "Evangelize" on four different sheets of paper in large print.
2. Post the four sheets of paper in the four corners of the classroom.

Instructions

This activity can be done at the end of the class because it involves a lot of moving around. Below are twenty-five different sentences, each pertaining to at least one of the four phrases posted in each corner.

1. Have the students stand up and move their desks away from the center of the room, if possible, so that they have space to walk without bumping into things.
2. Instruct the students to look at the four phrases posted in the corners of the room. Tell the students that you will be reading different sentences.
3. After you read a sentence, you will say, "Go," and the students must move to the corner of the room with the phrase they think matches the sentence you just read.
4. When all of the students have settled down in their corners, call on a student from each corner and ask why they chose that corner (sometimes there can be more than one "right" answer).
5. After the students have finished sharing, read the next sentence.
6. To make the game shorter, choose fewer sentences and/or fewer people to share. To make the game longer, make your own sentences, or pick from the students' answers in Worksheet #3, Column C.

Amy likes to praise God by singing in choir.

Bobby tries to get along with everyone in RE class.

Christine brought her friend to a hymnal evangelical service.

David doesn't watch violent movies even though his friends do.

Eva helps clean the church love hall.

Fred wears his TJC T-shirt proudly to school.

Grace says grace before she has lunch at school.

Henry helps his parents give flyers to strangers at the shopping center.

Irene got 100% on her test; when her parents said, "Great job!" she said, "Thank God!"

Jack sat with the new kid during lunch at church.

Kathy led the whole class in singing hymns.

Luke went with the evangelical team to the local hospital.

Michelle keeps herself holy by not saying any bad words.

Nelson asked the older kids very nicely to be quiet during service.

Olivia shared a testimony about how God helped her get better when she was sick.

Peter helped explain prayer in tongues to the new truth-seekers.

Quincy determined to pray for fifteen minutes every day.

Rosy asked her dad, who isn't baptized yet, to come to church with her.

Samuel praised God when older people complimented him.

Tammy doesn't copy her classmate's homework even though she hasn't finished hers.

Victor dresses up for church because the preacher encourages everyone to wear formal clothes to service.

Wendy prays earnestly for the Holy Spirit every Sabbath during prayer session.

Xavier listened to his parents when they asked him to stop playing video games.

Yvonne gave her best friend at school a birthday card she made with a Bible verse on it.

Zack plays piano for RE class.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. glorify—praise
sanctify—make holy
unify—bring together
evangelize—preach
2. Answers may vary.
3. Refer to Bible Discovery Worksheet #1, Teacher Version for answers.

JESUS CHRIST IS OUR SPIRITUAL HIGH PRIEST

	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
<p>Who is the high priest? <i>(Hebrews 5:4-5)</i></p>	<i>Sons of Aaron</i>	<i>Jesus Christ</i>
<p>What is the high priest's job? <i>(Hebrews 5:1-3; 7:24-25)</i></p>	<i>To make sacrifices for the sins of the people and pray for them</i>	<i>To make sacrifices for the sins of the people and pray for them; to make intercession for them</i>
<p>What kind of offerings and sacrifices does the high priest make? <i>(Hebrews 10:4, 10)</i></p>	<i>Animals such as goats, sheep, and bulls, and their blood</i>	<i>Jesus' own body and blood</i>
<p>How often does the high priest have to make sacrifices? <i>(Hebrews 7:26-28; 10:1-4, 11, 14)</i></p>	<i>Once a year on the Day of Atonement and also every day</i>	<i>Once and for all</i>
<p>Where does the high priest do his job? <i>(Hebrews 9:6-7, 11, 24-25)</i></p>	<i>In the tabernacle</i>	<i>In heaven</i>
<p>What happens when the high priest dies? <i>(Hebrews 7:23-24)</i></p>	<i>A new high priest will take his place</i>	<i>Jesus lives forever, so He is High Priest forever</i>
<p>Is the high priest a perfect person? Why or why not? <i>(Hebrews 7:26-28)</i></p>	<i>No, the high priest has his own sins and he cannot live forever</i>	<i>Yes, Jesus is sinless and lives forever</i>



JESUS CHRIST IS OUR SPIRITUAL HIGH PRIEST



	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
<p>Who is the high priest? <i>(Hebrews 5:4-5)</i></p>		
<p>What is the high priest's job? <i>(Hebrews 5:1-3; 7:24-25)</i></p>		
<p>What kind of offerings and sacrifices does the high priest make? <i>(Hebrews 10:4, 10)</i></p>		
<p>How often does the high priest have to make sacrifices? <i>(Hebrews 7:26-28; 10:1-4, 11, 14)</i></p>		
<p>Where does the high priest do his job? <i>(Hebrews 9:6-7, 11, 24-25)</i></p>		
<p>What happens when the high priest dies? <i>(Hebrews 7:23-24)</i></p>		
<p>Is the high priest a perfect person? Why or why not? <i>(Hebrews 7:26-28)</i></p>		

vocabulary detective

Instructions: Fill in the blanks for the vocabulary definitions.

glorify: 1. To _____ or make clearer the glory of God by one's actions.
2. To give _____ to God.

authority: The _____ or right to give orders, make _____, and enforce obedience.

manifested: _____

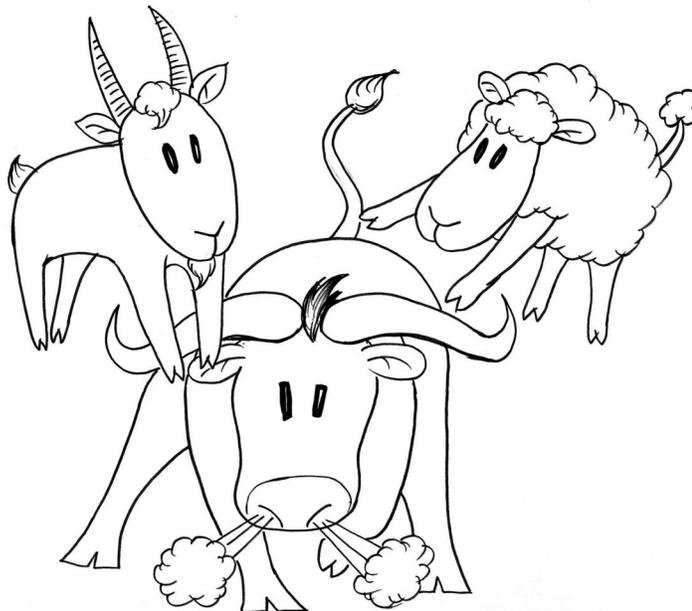
son of perdition: A sinner who refuses to _____ and has died, and thus is eternally condemned (in this case, _____ [scariot]).

fulfilled: _____; _____ and happy

sanctify: To make a person _____.

foundation of the world: The time in the _____ when God created the _____.

declare: To say something with _____; to _____.



JESUS' GREAT PRAYER

Instructions

Column A: Work with your class to find the correct word to fill in the blanks using the hint from the verse numbers.

Column B: Work with your partner to figure out the answers. (Hint: What is the meaning of the word you filled in the blank in Column A?)

Column C: Work with your partner to fill in Column C.

	COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C
Verses	What did Jesus pray about?	How can we fulfill Jesus' will for us?	Give 2 examples of what you can do to follow each point of Jesus' Great Prayer.
1, 5	Jesus desires to be _____.	Example: Jesus wants us to praise Him.	Example: (1) I can sing hymns aloud often to glorify God. (2)
11, 15	Jesus wants us to be _____.		(1) (2)
21-23	Jesus wills for the church to be _____.		(1) (2)
18	Jesus sends us out to _____.		(1) (2)

E2 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 8—Jesus' Great Prayer

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Hebrews 4:16**)

1. Match the vocabulary words with their synonyms.

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| glorify | preach |
| sanctify | praise |
| unify | make holy |
| evangelize | bring together |

2. Read John chapter 17, Jesus' Great Prayer. The main points that we learned are:

- (1) We bring glory to Him so that Jesus might be glorified.
- (2) We will be sanctified.
- (3) The church must be unified.
- (4) The word is evangelized.

Choose one of the points to write about. Write five sentences or more about why you think that point is important and how you will put that point into action.

3. Work with your parent. Read Hebrews 7:20-28. Write five sentences or more comparing and contrasting the priests of the Old Testament and Jesus Christ.