

Junior 1 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 8

Jesus' Prayers

Passages: Jn 17; 14:6; 1:1, 14; Heb 4:14; Jas 2:26; 1 Pet 2:11; Mt 7:24–27; Phil 3:20; 1 Jn 3:18

Memory Verse

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6–7)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
Jesus Christ prays for our sakes so that we may keep His word and become united in Him.	Jesus Christ is our intercessor.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Glorify God by letting others see Jesus in you. 2. Draw closer to God through prayer.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

The High Priestly Prayer

- A. Jesus Prays for Himself and for a Relationship with His Father (Jn 17:1–5)
- B. Jesus Prays for His Disciples (Jn 17:6–19)
- C. Jesus Prays for the Unity of His Church (Jn 17:20–26)

The Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane

- D. Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:36–46)

Life Application

1. Glorify God with Our Life
2. Draw Near to God Through Prayer

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Receive, accept, and obey God’s words so that others can see Jesus in us. Remember the importance of prayer in developing a closer relationship with God.

The High Priestly Prayer

John chapter 17 is the longest prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is referred to as the “High Priestly Prayer.” He made this prayer after the last supper, just a few hours before His arrest and crucifixion on the cross. Even with His imminent death, Jesus still kept us in His heart. In this prayer, He prayed for three things: the glory of God through the manifestation of His word; the work that has been entrusted to His disciples; and the safety, joy and unity of His disciples.

A. Jesus Prays for Himself and for His Relationship with His Father (Jn 17:1–5)

1. Glorify the Father (Jn 17:1)

The word “glory” is translated as *kabod* in Hebrew, which is derived from a word meaning “heavy.” The verb “to glorify” means to give weight to or to give honor to. We glorify someone by expressing their importance and worth. For example, Jesus used the word “glory” five times in the section where Jesus prays for Himself:

v. 1	“Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You”
v. 4	“I have glorified You on the earth.”
v. 5	“And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

Through the repetition of “glorify,” we can see the importance of glory in the relationship between God and Jesus Christ. But how did Jesus glorify God? According to verse 4, Jesus Christ glorified God by finishing the work that God had given Him to do: to “seek and to save that which was lost” (Lk 19:10). In other words, Jesus Christ came to this world to call the lost so that they may know God, accept Him, and have eternal life.

2. Jesus’ Relationship with His Father

The Bible says that Jesus “Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed. (Lk 5:16; cf. Mt 14:23; Mk 6:46; Lk 9:10). Jesus chose solitary places because He valued the time He spent with God. He set an example for us in more than just prayer, but also in how to develop an intimate relationship with God. Jesus’ relationship with Him was so intimate that He would do or say nothing without God’s approval, showing how close He was to the Lord and how well He knew the heart of His Father.

Just like any father, God wants to spend time with His children. He wants us to withdraw ourselves from the world around us and spend time alone with Him in prayer. Only then will we be able to achieve the same kind of relationship that Jesus had with God.

B. Jesus Prays for His Disciples (Jn 17:6–19)

In the second section of the prayer, Jesus Christ prayed that His disciples might be sanctified by God’s truth (v. 17). For the disciples to be sanctified by the truth, three steps were required: the disciples *received* the word given by Jesus (v. 8); *accepted* the words (v. 8); and *kept*, or obeyed, the words (v. 6).

1. Keeping God’s word (vv. 6–8)

a. Received the word

Unless we receive the word and who God is, we will never receive eternal life. John 17:3 reminds us that eternal life is to know God. This does not simply mean knowing that He

exists, but also learning His character, hearing His teachings, and seeing what He has done. Jesus Christ has come and given us His word. It is up to us to receive it.

b. Accepted the word

In school, we may learn just enough to pass a test, but we may not spend time studying the subject in-depth. This is not enough for God's word. We need not only to hear the words, but also to understand the meaning behind them, and most importantly accept them into our hearts.

c. Obeyed the word

James 2:26 says, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." A Christian's faith matures only through the obedience of God's word. To be sanctified by the word, it is crucial that we obey and put God's word into everyday practice.

2. In the world, but not of the world (vv. 9–19)

In 1 Peter 2:11, Christians are called "sojourners and pilgrims." Though we only dwell on this earth temporarily, we often become caught up in pursuing material luxuries to satisfy ourselves. And as long as we live in this world, Satan will always try to lure us back to him. Despite this, Jesus did not pray that God take us out of the world, but allow us to stay in the world. Jesus Christ wants us to live a life of holiness in His name. Through our different attitudes and actions in life, we can act as the light of the world and guide others to God.

C. Jesus Prays for the Unity of His Church (Jn 17:20–26)

1. Be united in Christ

In the final section of the prayer, Jesus Christ prays that all believers be one with Him, just as He and God are one. Jesus is our mediator and High Priest so that we can be one with God, which allows us to be united with one another. And being united with one another glorifies God's name, making us witnesses to others who don't believe (vv. 21, 25).

We are one body in Christ

"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ" (1 Cor 12:12). Even though we are individual entities, in Christ, we all belong to the same body. So if one member rejoices, we rejoice. If one weeps, we weep as well (Rom 12:15). We work with one heart and one mind.

2. How do we become united in Christ?

a. Serve the Father

Serving our Father requires two things: obeying His words (1 Sam 12:24) and following Him (Jn 12:26). We serve God by doing as He instructs us in His word. We also serve by following God and being where He is present. In which areas are we serving God?

b. Serve one another

It is inevitable that we will have differences in thoughts, habits, and perceptions. So how can we be united? We must set aside our differences and love one another, just as Christ loved us. Loving one another requires that we accept, understand, and help one another in our actions. We serve one another in deed and in truth (1 Jn 3:18). That means we forgive, encourage, intercede, and help one another in truth. We must not look lightly upon any

members of this body, but instead do all things for others as if doing it for ourselves.

The Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane

Another famous prayer is Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. While the "High Priestly Prayer" was entirely for His disciples and His followers, this prayer was entirely for Himself. It is a potent prayer that shows that Jesus was as scared as any of us would be when faced with pain and death. It proves Jesus' true nature as fully human. Yet even in His humanity, He was still able to find the strength in God to face His suffering and the will to fulfill God's salvation.

D. Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:36–46)

1. The progression of the prayer

- a. Jesus told the three disciples to watch, or be on guard (v. 38)
- b. Jesus began praying, asking His Father to let the cup pass from Him, if it were possible (v. 39)
- c. Jesus found the disciples asleep; He warned them to watch and pray (vv. 40–41)
- d. Jesus went back and prayed a second time (v. 42)
- e. Jesus prayed the third time after finding the disciples asleep again (vv. 43–44)
- f. Jesus told the disciples that the one who would betray Him was coming (vv. 45–46)

2. Pray to know God's will and receive strength

In His great distress, Jesus went immediately to pray to the only one who could help Him. The Book of Hebrews describes His prayers as with "vehement cries and tears" (Heb 5:7). After three prayers in this manner, filled with courage and strength through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was ready to rise and meet His betrayer (Mt 26:46).

God is the source of our strength. By praying in the power of the Holy Spirit, we in turn will receive strength. But we do not pray only for strength. Jesus' prayer was clearly a desperate one, but His desperation was not just for God's help. His prayer was primarily for Him to surrender His physical fears to the will of God (Lk 22:42–44).

3. Watch and pray

In verse 41 Jesus says, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." To watch means to be alert. At night, a watchman must be cautious and vigilant so that he can detect any potential danger. But being watchful alone is not enough; Jesus states that we must also pray. Why?

- a. We are easily distracted by our desires and fleshly needs (2 Cor 2:11)
- b. Satan prowls around like a roaring lion to devour us (1 Pet 5:8)
- c. We must give an account of our lives when we stand before Him (Rom 14:12; 1 Pet 4:5)

Therefore, when we watch and pray, we must pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17) and ask God to cleanse us, teach us, and give us strength to be freed from all distractions (Heb 12:2).

Life Application

1. Glorify God with Our Life

In His prayer for the believers, Jesus Christ prayed that the world might know God through them. As followers of Christ, how do we answer Jesus' prayer? How do we live a life so that others can see the importance of God? To answer this question, we must first understand two very important things.

a. Know who we are

By knowing who we are, we can recognize where we belong and our purpose. We are “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people” (1 Pet 2:9). As citizens of heaven, we obey and pursue God knowing that one day we will return to our true home in heaven (Phil 3:20). So how do citizens of the world act in comparison to citizens of heaven? (Teachers: Allow students to discuss. Example answers given below.)

Citizens of the World	Citizens of Heaven
Focus on achieving a successful life	Focus on achieving eternal life
Enjoy pleasure brought by luxury and possessions	Enjoy the peace and joy we have in Christ
Satisfaction brought by gains in life	Contentment brought by having Christ in our life
Follow the changing trends and values of the world	Follow the teachings and principles of the Bible, God’s word
“I” am the focus and ruler of my own life	God is the Lord and King of my life

God has promised to take care of our needs so that we never have to worry about what to eat or to wear. Instead, God says we ought to pursue God’s kingdom and righteousness (Mt 6:33) and live our lives based on biblical values and principles, not on the values of this world.

b. Obey His word

Knowing who we are and what we have received makes it easier to understand that as God’s children, we ought to worship Him. The Bible says that we must worship Him in Spirit and in truth, which means we must worship with a sincere heart. But in order to do so, we must first love Him. Loving God makes it simple to obey His teachings and serve Him according to His will. And when we do, the world will see how different we are; they will see God’s glory in us.

2. Draw Near to God Through Prayer

Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane shows us that prayer is not only a way to glorify God, but also to draw near to and receive strength from Him. The apostle Paul teaches us “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:6–7). So how do we draw near to God in our prayers?

a. Pour out your heart

“Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us” (Ps 62:8). Jesus showed and proved to us that there was only one way for Him to overcome His anxieties: He walked into Gethsemane and prayed. There is no shame in pouring out our troubles and fears before the Lord and crying out to Him for help.

b. Pray with persistence

Jesus told us, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Mt 7:7). Jesus prayed three times before He received strength. Persistence in our prayers shows God that we trust Him to take care of us. If God has not answered your prayer yet, He wants you to keep praying until He is ready to answer you in His own time.

c. Pray according to God's Will

Jesus prayed three times that this cup pass from Him, but only according to God's will, not His own (Mt 26:39, 42, 44). The Bible teaches us, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (Jas 4:3). Our prayers are not for the sake of fulfilling our own desires, but for the sake of drawing closer to God and living according to His will.

d. Pray in faith

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God [...]. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord" (Jas 1:5–7). Doubts are what make us fearful and anxious, and these are dangerous feelings that often drive us to sin. Prayer helps us build up our faith, and in turn, our faith helps us to overcome our doubts and draw closer to God.

Check for Understanding

- 1. What are the three things Jesus prayed for in John 17?** He prayed for: the glory of God through the manifestation of His word; the work that has been entrusted to His disciples; and the safety, joy, and unity of His disciples.
- 2. How did Jesus glorify God while in this world?** He came to this world to call His chosen people and teach them about the word so that they may know God and have eternal life. He also came to show mankind the magnificence of God's name and the importance of knowing God and accepting Him into our life.
- 3. How were Jesus' disciples sanctified by the truth?** They received, accepted, and kept the words given by Jesus.
- 4. How does God want His children to act in comparison to those of this world?** God wants us to pursue His kingdom and righteousness, not the material desires and satisfactions of the world. He wants us to live a life of holiness and joy in His name so that we may act as the light of the world and guide others to God.
- 5. How do we become united in Christ?** Serve the Father by obeying His words, following Him, and serving one another in love.
- 6. What does Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane teach us about the importance of prayer?** We must pray to know God's will and to receive strength, and we must also watch and pray to remain vigilant against the distractions of the world.

Memory Verse

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6–7)

Meaning

As God's children, we do not need to worry about our lives or what will happen tomorrow. But with all the uncertainties that surround us, how can we avoid being anxious and obtain the peace Jesus wants for us? This peace comes from our trust in God. By relying on Him through our prayers, we are trusting that God will help us and solve our problems. When we obtain this peace, our hearts and minds will no longer be controlled by our anxieties, regardless of the problem we are facing.

Conclusion

Jesus prayed that we might behold the glory that God has given Him, not because of what we have done but because of who we belong to. In the same way Jesus' disciples received, accepted, and obeyed His words, let us prove through our actions that we are separate from the world we live in. We need to bear spiritual fruits in our daily life so that we may manifest the nature of God in our actions.

Jesus also showed us that we should always turn to God in our time of need. God is the source of our strength. We need to pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, especially when we are in trouble or face difficult problems. Through constant prayer with God, we can learn to better trust Him with our needs, remain strong in tribulation, and over time, develop a closer relationship with Him.

Lesson 8 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does it mean to “be anxious for nothing”? How can we do this and obtain peace?
As God’s children, we do not need to worry about our lives or what will happen tomorrow. We can do this by fully trusting that God will help us and by relying on Him through our prayers.
2. What are the three things Jesus prayed for in John 17?
Jesus Christ prayed for: the glory of God through the manifestation of His word; the work that has been entrusted to His disciples; and the safety, joy, and unity of His disciples.
3. How did Jesus glorify God while in this world?
He came to this world to call His chosen people and teach them about the word so that they may know God and have eternal life. He also came to show mankind the magnificence of God’s name and the importance of knowing God and accepting Him into our life.
4. What are the three steps to being sanctified by the truth? Explain each step in detail.
Receive the word: Do not simply know that God exists, but also learn His character, hear His teachings, and see what He has done for us.
Accept the word: Understand the spiritual meaning and intent behind God’s word and integrate it into our hearts.
Obey the word: Obey God’s word by putting His teachings into action.
5. In what way are we “sojourners and pilgrims”? How should this affect the way we act?
We only dwell in this world temporarily. This means we must live a life of holiness and joy in Jesus’ name by pursuing God’s kingdom and living according to biblical values and principles, not values of this world.
6. Do you think you have an intimate relationship with God? Why or why not? How can you improve your relationship with Him?
Personal answers.