

Worksheet #17: John 17:1–26

Summary: John 17 serves as a transition in John's gospel between the Farewell Discourse proper and the account of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. This chapter records one of Jesus' prayers as he anticipates what is soon to come, and it is remarkable both as the longest of Jesus' recorded prayers and for the insight it provides into Jesus' own consciousness of what would soon come to pass. The passage breaks down simply into three sections. Jesus first prays for himself (17:1–5), then for his disciples (17:6–19), and finally for all others who would later believe in his name (17:20–26).

Abbreviated Outline¹ (current passage in bold):

- I. INTRODUCTION: THE WORD MADE FLESH (1:1-18)
- II. THE BOOK OF SIGNS: THE SIGNS OF THE MESSIAH (1:19-12:50)
 - A. *The Forerunner and the Coming of the Messiah* (1:19-51)
 - B. *The Cana Cycle: Jesus' Inaugural Signs and Representative Conversations* (2:1-4:54)
 - C. *The Festival Cycle: Additional Signs amidst Mounting Unbelief* (5-10)
 - D. *Final Passover: Climactic Sign, the Raising of Lazarus, and Other Events* (11-12)
- III. THE BOOK OF EXALTATION: PREPARING THE NEW MESSIANIC COMMUNITY AND THE PASSION OF JESUS (13-20)
 - A. *The Cleansing and Instruction of the New Covenant Community, including Jesus' Final Prayer* (13-17)
 - 1. Cleansing the Community (13:1-30)
 - 2. The Farewell Discourse (13:31-16:33)
 - a. Jesus' Departure and Sending of the Spirit (13:31-14:31)
 - b. Jesus the True Vine (15:1-17)
 - c. The Spirit and the Disciples' Witness to the World (15:18-16:33)
 - 3. Jesus' Parting Prayer (17)**
 - B. *The Passion Narrative* (18-19)
 - 1. The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus (18:1-11)
 - 2. Jesus Questioned by the High Priest and Denied by Peter (18:12-27)
 - 3. Jesus Before Pilate (18:28-19:16a)
 - 4. Jesus' Crucifixion and Burial (19:16b-42)
 - C. *Jesus' Resurrection and Appearances, Commissioning of Disciples* (20:1-29)
 - 1. The Empty Tomb (20:1-10)
 - 2. Jesus' Encounter with Mary Magdalene (20:11-18)
 - 3. Jesus' First Appearance, to His Disciples (20:19-23)
 - 4. Jesus' Second Appearance, to Thomas (20:24-29)
 - D. *Concluding Purpose Statement* (20:30-31)
- IV. EPILOGUE: THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLES OF PETER AND THE BELOVED DISCIPLE (21)

¹ Adapted from Andreas Köstenberger, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, The Cross, and The Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament* (Nashville, Tenn: B & H Academic, 2009), 307–308.

Interpretation: *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. How does the Son receive glory, according to 17:1, 4–5, 10, 22, 24? What does it mean for Christ to be “glorified”? [Note: You may wish to consult a concordance or Bible software to find other references to “glory, glorify” in chs 14–17.]

2. In what sense did Jesus glorify the Father through his work (17:4)?

3. What actions does Jesus ascribe to the Father in 17:6–8? What does this emphasis suggest about believer’s relationship to the Father and to the Son?

4. Based on the context, whom does Jesus describe as his own in 17:9–19? What are some characteristics of the individuals mentioned in this section?

5. What did Jesus give to his followers, as described in 17:14? How would that gift enable faithful living and sanctification in this world (17:15–19)?

6. What are Jesus’ desires for those who would later come to believe in Him (17:20–21)?

7. How does Jesus expect that his followers will have an impact upon the world (17:21–23)?

Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

8. What does this passage tell us about Jesus? How does it help us to understand “his place in the sweep of redemptive history”?²

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?

² D. A. Carson, *The Gospel according to John*, Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991), 102.