*divING DEEPER* **Discussion Guide**

**TEXT SUMMARY**

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Today’s text, John 17:1-5, the first paragraph in Jesus’s “high priestly prayer” for his disciples. This marvelous prayer provides us a glimpse into his ministry of intercession, which continues today for all who have put their faith in him.

**INTRODUCTION** (observation)

A key theme in the prayer, especially in this opening paragraph, is the glory of God.

1. God is glorified in His Son Jesus.

2. God is glorified in giving us eternal life.

**READING**

Before you read the text, take a look at the questions on the back of the page.

The text of the sermon is the first paragraph of Jesus’s great high priestly prayer for his disciples **John 17:1-5.**

**DISCUSSION** (interpretation)

**Questions:**

1. What do these texts tell us about the key theme of the glory of God?
   1. John 1:14
   2. Psalm 19:1
   3. Exodus 14:13-18; 15:1-3
2. Crucifixion was so disgraceful in the Roman world that it was hard for people in the first century to see how a crucified Messiah could be in any sense victorious. How was God “glorified” in the death of Jesus?
3. What does “eternal life” mean? Is it just everlasting existence, or is there more to it?
4. God gave us Jesus and Jesus gave up his life so that we could have eternal life. How is God “glorified” in His giving us eternal life through Jesus?

**SO WHAT?** (application)

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The sermon closes with these words: “The purpose of John’s gospel is this: *These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31*

“Since the focus of Jesus’ prayer was the glory of God, our purpose in prayer must be nothing less.

* Every prayer, whether for one’s health, needs, job, missions, must focus on God being glorified.
* Our desire for God to work in regard to both our physical and spiritual needs must be saturated with hope for God to be glorified.
* The glory of God far exceeds my comfort and convenience and can be achieved both by God granting my requests or his withholding of my requests.

If I were to take on this mindset about Jesus’s prayer and God’s glory…

* + *…how would my relationships (family, friends, co-workers, etc.) look different?*
  + *…how would my interior life look different?*
    - *thought life*
    - *fantasies and ambitions*
    - *anxieties*
    - *private prayer life*
  + *…how would my stewardship look different, the way I manage the resources God has entrusted to me?*
    - *time*
    - *gifts and abilities*
    - *social advantages*
    - *financial resources*