

Sunday May 24, 2020 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church
Bible Study – John 17:1-11
Showing the Glory of Christ in Us

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs, share a time of suffering or painful endurance.

Group Dialogue (Approximately 30 minutes)

John 17:1-11 Context. This chapter is a prayer, Jesus' farewell prayer. Jesus' prayer in John 17:1-26 is the final scene of his farewell meal with his disciples. Since the sixteenth century, the traditional title of this prayer has been "Jesus' high priestly prayer." This title highlights the role of Jesus as intercessor in this prayer, but it minimizes the intrinsic connections between this prayer and the preceding discourse.

In the opening section, verses 1-8, he prays from himself and his work. Beginning at verse 9, he turns from his own glorification to intercessions for the future life of his followers. He prays for his disciples.

Read John 17:1-11

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read John 17:1-11 again

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- By yourself or as a group, work to define the word "glory." [You might think about how a parent glories in or takes pleasure in an accomplishment of a child or pridefully delights in a child's abilities.]
- Looking at your definition of glory, what might Jesus be asking for when he prays, "Glorify your son . . ." (v. 1)? How will Jesus glorify God the Father (v. 1)?
- By yourself or as a group, work to define the phrase, "eternal life" (v. 2). FYI - A more literal translation might be life everlasting.
- What does verse 3 contribute to our understanding of eternal life?
- What might it look like for Jesus' prayer, "that they might be one as we are one," to become reality? How has Jesus' life, death, and resurrection provided a model for what it might require of us to be in unity with Christ and the church?

Read John 17:1-11 again

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God of glory, empower us to take delight in doing your will. Transform our hearts and minds, as your chosen and precious people, that others would see Jesus in us. May your Holy Spirit so live within us that eternal life would come flooding up out of our words and deeds. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.