

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Teach Us to Pray
Title: let My Life Give God Glory
Speaker: Steve Berg
Text: John 17:1-5
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WARM-UP

What is a story you have about a particularly challenging responsibility or work assignment? What were you thinking and feeling going in to it; in the middle of it; and ending it? What were the benefits of taking on the task and completing it?

DISCUSSION

The Gospels tell us that Jesus prayed continually. There are a few small references to the content, but we don't know very much about what Jesus prayed when He was up all night with His Father. John 17 gives us the one comprehensive prayer of Jesus, the longest prayer recorded, at 632 words. Some have said that, "This prayer invites us into the Holy of Holies - the inner communion of the Trinity." This is the prayer that Jesus wanted His disciples to hear Him pray, because He teaches us a great deal about the relationship between the Father and the Son - and because of Jesus, between the Father and us.

1. Read the entire prayer out loud together. Praying out loud can be difficult, but what are the benefits to praying out loud?
2. What has God the Father, given to Jesus? How does this gift from God help us answer the question of who Jesus is?
3. What does Jesus have authority to give to all people? (John 1:4; 3:14-16; 4:14; 5:24; 6:27 & 40; 10:10 & 28; 11:25; and 14:6) Does Jesus have authority over you? If not, what would need to change for you to benefit from giving to Jesus the authority He already has over you?
4. How does Jesus define eternal life? Is this definition different than what you have thought? Can eternal life be experienced prior to death? What does it mean for you to know God and His son Jesus Christ?
5. What is the work that Jesus has accomplished? How does this glorify God? As you seek to serve God and build His Kingdom, how can God be glorified through you?
6. As Jesus prays for Himself, what is His request of the Father? Philippians 2:6-11 helps us understand what the Father did through Jesus' life. How does this truth about Jesus give you hope?

PRAYER

Father, I thank You for your Son Jesus who shows the world your glory by...
Father, as your child I want to show the world Your glory by...
Father, in Your word the Spirit is saying to me, "Dear Child..."
Father, today I pray for the persecuted Christians around the world..