

Unity

August 2, 2020

THINGS THAT
MATTER

Reading/Group Discussion

Begin with prayer

As you begin your gathering, have someone open your time by praying the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your time together.

Read this overview

The last several months have been a doozy...to say the least. From the COVID-19 crisis, to racial unrest in America reaching international attention, we've witnessed unprecedented change and tension in our country. During the chaos, we've been reminded of the importance of certain values—and while we've always known they mattered, 2020 has highlighted their significance as never before.

This past weekend Dan taught us about unity from **John 17**.

Scripture + Discussion

Have someone read **John 17:1-26**. Then, talk through the questions below.

- How did this sermon/text deepen your faith? How did it challenge you?
- Why do you think unity is so important to Jesus? What does Jesus base his desire for unity on?
- Where have you personally contributed to disunity in the church?
- When was a time in your life you chose unity with other believers rather than disunity? What was that like? How did God grow you through that experience?
- How might your life be enhanced, your relationship with God enriched, and your understanding of the kingdom of God enlarged by pursuing unity with other believers?
- How have your past experiences informed how you go about living unified with others?
- What needs to change for you to live out Jesus' desire and prayer for you "to be one" (John 17:21) with other believers? What is keeping you from that reality?
- What is God inviting you into as a result of your reflections this week?

Accountability

Take some time again this week to split your group into smaller or gendered groups and share your answers to the questions below. Be sure to follow up on anything that was shared last week.

- What disunity have you contributed to or caused in your life (with a parent, spouse, friend, co-worker, etc.) that you need to confess? What do you need accountability for when it comes to reconciling that relationship?
- What has your time in the Scriptures been like this week? What is something you learned this week?
- What has your time in prayer been like this week?
- Where have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- What sins do you need to confess right now?
- Have you been 100% honest?

Finish with prayer

You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.