



## **In the Flesh – John 17**

March 17 | Group Discussion Guide

**Begin by asking an opening question, reading Scripture, and praying together (15 minutes).**

OPENING QUESTION: What's one word you'd use to describe your past week? Why'd you choose that word? What experiences, events, etc. occurred that led you to pick that word?

SCRIPTURE: **Read John 17.**

PRAYER: After reading, have someone pray for your time together.

**Transition to some individual time with Scripture (20 minutes).**

John 17 has often been referred to as the "Holy of Holies" of Scriptures because it's Jesus praying. It's Jesus' longest prayer. And, often times in prayer, we gain access to the deepest parts of the person praying. The same is true here with Jesus.

On your own, take a few minutes to review what your group just read together in **John 17**. As you go back over these verses, note in your phone or on a notepad all the things that Jesus prays about for himself (**17:1-5**), for his disciples (**17:6-19**), and then for all believers (**17:20-26**).

You don't have to do this perfectly. The goal is to simply get you into the text and paying attention to what Jesus is praying about!

Once you've noted some of the things that Jesus prays for, ask yourself, "What specific equipping, teaching, warning, etc. is Jesus trying to equip me with, teach me, or warn me about?"

Prepare your thoughts to share with the group.

**Come back to a large group for discussion about the sermon and John 17 (30 minutes).**

- What did you notice from your time in **John 17**? What are some of the things you noticed that Jesus prayed for?
- What specific equipping, teaching, warning, etc. is Jesus trying to equip me with, teach me, or warn me about?
- In his sermon, Emerson used this chapter to draw a distinction between the Christian belief in "Someone More" and the secular belief in a "something more." Do you know people who would resonate more with the "something more" narrative? People who seem tired of organized religion? Have you, personally, ever wrestled with that tension? How might John 17 speak the "spiritual but not religious" mindset?
- In his sermon, Emerson also drew us to three aspects of Jesus' prayer:
  - (1) That Jesus is bringing us to glory (as we learned when Jesus prayed for himself)
  - (2) That Jesus is interceding for us (as we learned when Jesus prayed for his disciples)
  - (3) That Jesus brings us into loving fellowship with himself (as we learned when Jesus prayed for us)

Do any of these resonate with what you felt like was being impressed upon you from your reading of John 17? Which one? Why do you think that one sticks out above the rest?

- Let's think about these three realities a bit more personally: Is there any way that you're seeking glory apart from Jesus? Are there any ways you feel like the Accuser has been winning in your thought life? Is there any way you feel like you are not in loving fellowship with the triune God? Explain. *You may want to give this question some space as people process how'd they'd like to respond or even instruct people to break out into smaller groups of 3-4 people to share.*

- In what ways do you think that you need to apply this chapter to your own life? Explain.

**Finish with logistics and prayer requests (5 minutes).**

1. **Inform your group** about the study devotions available to help you walk through the gospel of John series! You can find that material at [thecreek.org/devotionals](http://thecreek.org/devotionals).
2. **Discuss** any follow-up that needs to happen still from life group vision nights!
3. **Finish your group** session by sharing prayer requests and praying together.