STUDY BIBLE WORKBOOK

John 17

That They May Be One

QUICK STUDY + DEEP DIVE

Jesus lifts His eyes to the Father and prays for His glory, the safekeeping and sanctification of His disciples, the unity of future believers, and their hope of being with Him.

Scripture quotations: World English Bible Classic (WEB)

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Quick Study: Begin with the chapter overview, Bible words, Greek pronunciation, Gospel Connection, and prayer.

Deep Dive: Eight Scripture-first SOAP passages include all 26 WEB verses, substantial observations, applications, guided prayers, and full-width writing lines.

WESTERN GRACE MEDIA

John 17 — Geographic Setting

Jesus prays before His arrest within the final Passover setting near Jerusalem (John 13–18). John 17 names no room, street, or new destination. This map supplies biblical geographic context rather than a speculative prayer location.



Original WGM regional atlas reused as a shared asset; no exact farewell-room location is asserted.

Regional location



COUNTRIES IN YEAR 2020

Jerusalem: The final Passover narrative provides the wider setting for Jesus' farewell words.

Jesus' prayer: No location for this specific prayer is named in John 17.

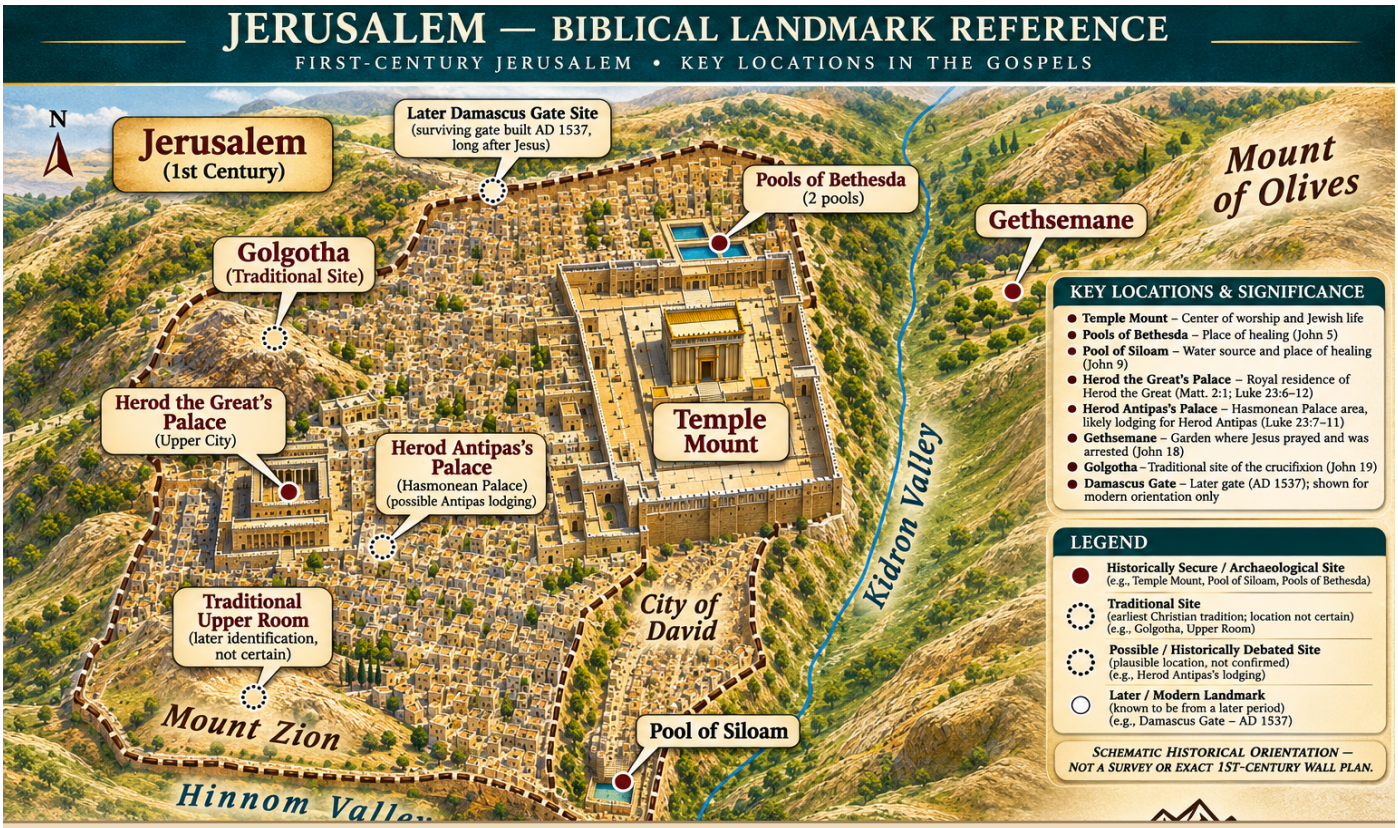
The prayer's setting: Jesus lifts His eyes to the Father following the farewell teaching.

Mount of Olives: A regional landmark, not a proven location of this prayer.

Map caution: The highlighted area identifies Jerusalem generally; no departure route is drawn.

Jerusalem — The Setting of Jesus' Farewell Words

John 17 records Jesus speaking to the Father immediately before the arrest narrative of John 18. The Jerusalem landmarks orient the reader to the final Passover setting without identifying the precise place of this prayer. The traditional Upper Room and Golgotha sites should not be treated as confirmed locations in John 17.



SCHEMATIC ORIENTATION — NOT TO SCALE

Palace/lodging and gate identifications are qualified; city walls and buildings are illustrative.

WESTERN GRACE MEDIA

READ THE TEXT WITH THE MAP

The prayer

Jesus has finished His farewell teaching and prays for Himself, His disciples, and future believers.

Nearby landmarks

Gethsemane and Golgotha orient readers to John 18–19. John 17 gives no prayer-site coordinate.

Traditional sites

The Upper Room, Golgotha, and some palace identifications have different levels of historical certainty; the illustration is schematic.

My notes about the setting:

John 17 — That They May Be One

MAIN VERSE

John 17:3, WEB: This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

BIG PICTURE

Jesus prays that the Father will glorify the Son, who gives eternal life to those entrusted to Him. He asks the Father to keep and sanctify the disciples in the truth of His word, not remove them from the world. His prayer includes future believers who will receive the apostles' message. Their unity and love should bear witness that the Father sent the Son. Jesus' desire is that His people will be with Him to see His eternal glory.

Jesus Prays for Glory (17:1–5)

The Son asks the Father to glorify Him as His saving mission approaches its climax.

The Disciples Have Received His Word (17:6–8)

Jesus has revealed the Father to those who have believed His message.

Jesus Asks the Father to Keep Them (17:9–12)

He prays for protection and unity among His first disciples.

Their Joy and Protection in the World (17:13–16)

He does not request their removal from the world but their keeping from evil.

QUICK STUDY NOTES

The Chapter’s Major Movements

Sanctification in Truth (17:17–19)
God’s word sets His people apart for faithful witness.

Prayer for Those Yet to Believe (17:20–21)
Jesus includes future believers who receive the apostolic word.

One in Christ and Loved by the Father (17:22–23)
Their unity is meant to display Christ and His Father’s love.

With Jesus to Behold His Glory (17:24–26)
The Lord prays that His people will be with Him and know the Father’s love.

QUICK STUDY FLOW

The hour of the Son’s glory
↓
Eternal life: knowing the Father through Jesus
↓
The disciples receive God’s word
↓
The Father keeps them in the world
↓
Truth sanctifies and sends them
↓
Jesus includes future believers
↓
Christ-centered unity witnesses to the world
↓
Jesus desires His people to see His glory

QUICK STUDY NOTES

Important Bible Words

Word / Phrase	Simple Meaning	Why It Matters
Glory	God’s excellence and honor made known	Jesus glorifies His Father through His completed mission.
Eternal life	Living knowledge of the true God through the Son	A gift of grace rather than merely endless existence.
Know	Personal recognition and relationship, grounded in truth	Knowing the Father through Jesus is the heart of life.
Keep / protect	Guard or preserve as belonging to God	Jesus intercedes for His disciples amid opposition.
Name	Revealed character and authority	Jesus makes the Father known to His own.
World	Humanity or an order opposed to God, according to context	The disciples remain in the world without adopting its rebellion.
Sanctify	Set apart for God and His purposes	The Father makes His people holy by His truth.
Truth	What is reliable and revealed by God	God’s word provides the standard for Christian faith.
One	Genuine fellowship in Christ	Unity witnesses to Christ without erasing doctrine.
Sent	Commissioned with purpose	The disciples bear witness as Jesus sends them.

Which word helps me understand Jesus’ prayer for truth, protection, unity, and eternal life?

Translation Word Notes

Pronunciations are approximate classroom-style Biblical Greek. CAPITAL letters show the stressed syllable. Greek helps clarify meaning but is not required for understanding Scripture. NKJV/NIV/NLT phrases are brief comparisons; full Scripture quotations remain WEB.

Verse	Greek & pronunciation	NKJV	NIV	NLT	Meaning in context
17:1	doxazō doh-KSAH-zoh	glorify	glorify	bring glory	Jesus seeks the Father’s glory through His mission.
17:2	exousia ex-oo-SEE-ah	authority	authority	authority	The Son has authority to give eternal life.
17:3	aiōnios zōē eye-OH-nee-os zoh-AY	eternal life	eternal life	eternal life	Life in knowing the Father through Jesus.
17:3	ginōskō gih-NOH-skoh	know	know	know	Personal knowledge rooted in receiving God’s revelation.
17:5	doxa DOH-ksah	glory	glory	glory	Jesus shared glory with the Father before creation.
17:6	onoma OH-noh-mah	name	name	name	The Father’s revealed identity and character.
17:11	tēreō tay-REH-oh	keep	protect	protect	The Father preserves those belonging to Christ.
17:13	chara khah-RAH	joy	joy	joy	Joy grounded in Jesus’ presence and promise.
17:17	hagiazō hah-gee-AH-zoh	sanctify	sanctify	make holy	Set apart for God through truth.
17:17	alētheia ah-LAY-thay-ah	truth	truth	truth	God’s word is the measure of truth.
17:18	apostellō ah-poh-STEL-loh	sent	sent	sent	Commissioned to bear faithful witness.
17:21	hen HEN	one	one	one	United fellowship grounded in the Father and Son.
17:26	agapē ah-GAH-pay	love	love	love	The Father’s love made known by Jesus.

Word-study notes:

The Gospel Connection

John 17 brings us into Jesus' prayer on the eve of His suffering. The Son has come from the Father to give eternal life, which is knowing the only true God through Jesus Christ (17:2–3). Jesus' glory is revealed through the saving mission He faithfully carries to the cross and through His resurrection and exaltation. Believers do not sanctify themselves by earning salvation; they are set apart by God's truth as they receive the apostolic word and trust the Savior. Jesus intercedes for His own, including future believers. He asks that they remain faithful in the world, that their unity bear witness to Him, and that they ultimately be with Him to behold His glory. Our confidence rests in the Father's love and the Son's finished saving work (John 3:16; 20:31).

Reflection: Am I receiving God's truth, praying for believers, and loving others in a way that honors Jesus?

A Short Prayer from John 17

Holy Father, thank You for sending Your Son to give eternal life. Let Your word shape how I know You. Protect me from evil, sanctify me in truth, and teach me to love believers without compromising Your gospel. Help my life point to Jesus and His glory. In His name, amen.

Pray this in your own words:

QUICK STUDY COMPLETE

One Truth to Carry With You

Jesus prays that His people will know the Father, be kept and sanctified in truth, live in unity, and be with Him to see His glory.

READY TO GO DEEPER — NEXT PAGE

Ready to Go Deeper?

This Deep Dive follows S.O.A.P.: Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Read Jesus' full prayer in context before considering the explanations, responding in faith, and praying in light of His words.

S — Scripture

Read every verse slowly; note changes in speaker, setting, and what Jesus reveals about Himself.

O — Observation

What does this prayer reveal about the Father and Son, eternal life, truth, protection, and unity?

A — Application

What should I believe, confess, obey, trust, or share in response to the passage?

P — Prayer

Respond prayerfully to what the passage actually says, not imagined motives or events.

Before I begin, what does it mean that Jesus prays for those who believe in Him?

Questions and repeated words to watch for:

JOHN 17:1–5

The Hour Has Come: Glory and Eternal Life

S — Scripture

1 Jesus said these things, then lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, “Father, the time has come. Glorify
your Son, that your Son may also glorify you;
2 even as you gave him authority over all flesh, so he will give eternal life to all whom you have given
him.
3 This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus
Christ.
4 I glorified you on the earth. I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do.
5 Now, Father, glorify me with your own self with the glory which I had with you before the world
existed.

John 17:1–5, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus lifts His eyes toward the Father and prays as His hour approaches. His request for glory is not self-promotion; the Father and Son glorify one another through the saving mission that includes the cross, resurrection, and exaltation.

Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent (v. 3). This describes a living, saving relationship with God through the Son—not simply collecting facts about religion or earning favor by works.

Jesus speaks of glory He shared with the Father before the world existed (v. 5). His eternal fellowship with the Father supports the historic evangelical confession that the Son did not begin to exist at Bethlehem.

My observations:

A — Application

How does Jesus’ definition of eternal life reshape what I am seeking most?

P — Prayer

Father, thank You for sending Your Son. Teach me to know You through Jesus and treasure His glory above my own.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 17:6–8

Your Word Received and Believed

S — Scripture

6 “I revealed your name to the people whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, and
you have given them to me. They have kept your word.
7 Now they have known that all things whatever you have given me are from you,
8 for the words which you have given me I have given to them; and they received them, and knew for
sure that I came from you. They have believed that you sent me.

John 17:6–8, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus has revealed the Father’s name—that is, His character and truth—to the disciples entrusted to Him. Revealing the Father does not merely mean speaking a particular pronunciation of a divine name.

The disciples received the words Jesus gave them. Their faith rests on His identity and His coming from the Father, not on social approval or secret spiritual techniques.

Jesus repeatedly emphasizes the Father’s initiative and the Son’s faithfulness. God’s word shapes the disciples’ understanding and obedience.

My observations:

A — Application

What words of Jesus am I receiving as authoritative even when they challenge my assumptions?

P — Prayer

Lord Jesus, give me a teachable heart. Help me receive Your word and believe what You reveal about the Father.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 17:9–12

Holy Father, Keep Them

S — Scripture

9 I pray for them. I don’t pray for the world, but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.
10 All things that are mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.
11 I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them through your name which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are.
12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in your name. I have kept those whom you have given me. None of them is lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

John 17:9–12, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus specifically intercedes for the disciples whom the Father has given Him. His immediate prayer for this group does not mean God lacks love for the world; John elsewhere speaks clearly of that love (3:16).

Jesus asks the Holy Father to keep them in His name so they may be one. This unity has a divine foundation in the Father and Son; it is not a request to dismiss truth or erase genuine convictions.

The loss of the “son of destruction” points to Judas and the fulfillment of Scripture. The verse must be read with the surrounding witness to Judas’s betrayal, not used to speculate about the eternal state of everyone who struggles.

My observations:

A — Application

Where do I need to trust the Father’s keeping power instead of depending entirely on my own resolve?

P — Prayer

Holy Father, keep me faithful to Christ and Your word. Unite believers around the gospel and protect us from false confidence.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 17:13–16

In the World, but Kept from Evil

S — Scripture

13 But now I come to you, and I say these things in the world, that they may have my joy made full in themselves.
14 I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
15 I pray not that you would take them from the world, but that you would keep them from the evil one.
16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 17:13–16, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus desires that His joy be fulfilled in His disciples even while the world opposes them. Joy in Christ does not remove all suffering, but remains grounded in His presence and promise.

The disciples are not “of the world,” meaning their allegiance and identity come from Christ. This is not permission to withdraw from ordinary responsibilities or show contempt toward people who disagree.

Jesus explicitly prays not for removal from the world but for protection from the evil one. Christians are to remain engaged, holy, humble, and faithful as God sends them into the world.

My observations:

A — Application

How can I remain faithfully present in the world while refusing patterns that oppose Christ?

P — Prayer

Father, protect me from evil. Keep me from either compromise or withdrawal, and fill me with the joy of Your Son.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 17:17–19

Sanctified by Truth and Sent into the World

S — Scripture

17 Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth.
18 As you sent me into the world, even so I have sent them into the world.
19 For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

John 17:17–19, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus asks the Father to sanctify His followers in the truth: “Your word is truth” (v. 17). Sanctification means being set apart for God and shaped by His truth; it is not the invention of new teachings to fit prevailing cultural fashions.

Jesus sends His disciples as the Father sent Him. Their mission is grounded in His revelation and saving work, and it calls for truthful, loving witness rather than worldly power.

When Jesus says He sanctifies Himself for their sake, He is describing His consecration to the mission of the Father, not confessing personal sin. His voluntary obedience makes His people’s sanctification possible.

My observations:

A — Application

What specific teaching of Scripture needs to shape my words or choices this week?

P — Prayer

Father, sanctify me by Your truth. Help my conduct and witness be faithful to Scripture and worthy of the Lord Jesus.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 17:20–21

Jesus Prays for Future Believers

S — Scripture

20 “Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who will believe in me through their word,
21 that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you sent me.

John 17:20–21, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus expands His prayer beyond the apostles to those who will believe through their word. That includes later generations who hear the apostolic gospel recorded in Scripture.

His request is that believers be one in the Father and the Son. The unity is spiritual and rooted in shared faith in Christ, not an insistence that churches abandon biblical doctrine or neglect accountability.

The world’s recognition that the Father sent Jesus is connected to the visible love and unity of His people. Division, pride, and rivalry can obscure our witness.

My observations:

A — Application

How can I pursue meaningful unity with other believers without compromising the truth of the gospel?

P — Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for praying for those who believe through Your apostles’ word. Teach us truthful and humble unity.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 17:22–23

One in Christ, Loved by the Father

S — Scripture

22 The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, that they may be one, even as we are one,
23 I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that you sent me and loved them, even as you loved me.

John 17:22–23, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus connects the glory given by the Father with the unity of His people. Shared life in Christ should display the character of the God who saves rather than magnify human status.

“I in them, and you in me” describes believers’ union with Christ and His fellowship with the Father. It does not make Christians divine or erase the distinction between Creator and creature.

Jesus says the Father loves believers. This incredible gift does not rest on our personal worthiness; it flows from the Father’s gracious love expressed through the Son.

My observations:

A — Application

What could I do to make the Father’s love more visible in my relationships with other Christians?

P — Prayer

Father, root my identity in Your gracious love. Make the unity of Christ’s people a truthful witness to Your Son.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 17:24–26

Be with Me and See My Glory

S — Scripture

24 Father, I desire that they also whom you have given me be with me where I am, that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world.
25 Righteous Father, the world hasn’t known you, but I knew you; and these knew that you sent me.
26 I made known to them your name, and will make it known; that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 17:24–26, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus asks that those given to Him be with Him and see His glory. Christian hope culminates in fellowship with Christ Himself, not merely a better place or relief from difficulties.

The Father loved the Son before the foundation of the world. The prayer reveals an eternal relationship of love within the Godhead before creation.

Jesus will continue to make the Father known so that divine love may be in His people and He in them. The chapter ends on personal communion with Christ, not on an uncertain geographic destination.

My observations:

A — Application

How does the promise of being with Jesus change the way I face present fears or future uncertainty?

P — Prayer

Jesus, thank You for desiring Your people to be with You. Keep my hope centered on Your glory and Your love.

Pray this in your own words:

Hard Questions

What does Jesus mean by eternal life in John 17:3?

He describes eternal life as knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent. It is personal and saving knowledge given through the Son—not simply living forever or possessing religious information.

Does calling the Father “the only true God” mean Jesus is not divine?

No. Read verse 3 alongside verse 5, where Jesus speaks of sharing divine glory with the Father before creation, and John 1:1–18. The Son is distinct from the Father yet fully divine in historic Christian teaching.

Had Jesus already completed His work before the cross (17:4)?

Jesus prays in anticipation of the climactic events immediately ahead. His statement affirms faithful accomplishment of the Father’s mission, not that His cross and resurrection were unnecessary.

What does “I revealed your name” mean?

In biblical usage God’s “name” expresses His identity and character. Jesus made the Father known through His words and deeds; the passage does not make spiritual life depend on one spoken form of a name.

Questions and study notes:

Hard Questions (continued)

Why does Jesus say He is not praying for the world in verse 9?

He is focusing this part of the prayer on disciples entrusted to Him. This does not cancel God's love for the world (John 3:16) or Christ's call to preach the gospel to all nations.

Who is "the son of destruction" in verse 12?

In its immediate setting the expression refers to Judas, who betrayed Jesus. His betrayal fulfills Scripture; the text should not be used to make speculative judgments about people today.

Does "not of the world" mean Christians should separate from society?

No. Jesus asks for protection while leaving His disciples in the world and then sends them into it (vv. 15, 18). Their allegiance is to Christ, expressed in truthful, loving witness.

What does "sanctify them in your truth" require?

The Father sets believers apart by His word, which is truth. Sanctification involves belonging to God and growing in holiness, not treating personal preferences or new ideologies as superior to Scripture.

Questions and study notes:

Hard Questions (continued)

Is Jesus asking all denominations to abandon doctrinal differences?

He asks that His people be one in the Father and Son. Biblical unity depends on shared truth about Christ and is consistent with honest disagreement on lesser matters; it never calls for denying the gospel.

Is Jesus praying for believers today?

Yes. In verse 20 He explicitly includes those who will believe through His disciples' word. Christians today receive that apostolic witness through Scripture and the gospel proclamation.

Does being "one" make believers equal to God?

No. The unity of believers reflects fellowship with God through Christ. It does not mean human beings become the Creator or share the divine nature in the same way as Father and Son.

What does it mean that Jesus wants believers to see His glory?

Jesus desires His people to be with Him and behold the glory given Him by the Father. The hope is personal fellowship with Christ, grounded in the Father's love before creation.

Questions and study notes:

Reflection

Where has my understanding of eternal life been too focused on circumstances instead of knowing Jesus?

How can I ask God to protect me from evil while remaining faithfully engaged with people around me?

Which teaching of Scripture needs to sanctify my thinking, habits, or relationships?

How can my love for other Christians make the truth about Jesus clearer to someone watching?

A Prayer for Truth, Unity, and Glory

Father, You are holy and true. I praise You for the eternal glory of Your Son and for the love You have shown through Him. Thank You that Jesus prayed for His disciples and for those who would believe through their word. Forgive my pride, unbelief, and desire to make my own opinions the measure of truth. Protect me from the evil one, keep me faithful amid the pressures of this world, and sanctify me by Your word. Grow in me a love for other believers grounded in Jesus Christ. Let our unity be honest and holy, not a disguise for false teaching. Strengthen my witness so others may see that You sent the Son. Fix my hope on being with Jesus and beholding His glory. In His name, amen.

Pray this in your own words:

ONE TRUTH TO CARRY WITH YOU

Jesus prays that His people will know the Father, be kept and sanctified in truth, live in unity, and be with Him to see His glory.

Final Notes