

The Helper—Unity
Study Questions
John 17:20-26

Warm-up

1) What would you say unites the people in the following groups—what is it that allows us to see the group instead of just the individual people?

- **A band or orchestra**
- **A family**
- **A trade or profession (like carpenters or doctors)**
- **A small military unit**

A little deeper

2) [John 17:20-21] Jesus prayed that all who believe in Him throughout history might “be one.” **What do you think Jesus means when he prays that we will “be one”?** (If you’re not sure, it may help to look at 1 Corinthians 12:12-14.)

The end of verse 21 clarifies that this isn’t just unity for the sake of unity. **Why is Christian unity important—what should happen because of it?**

3) [John 17:22-23] Jesus speaks of giving us a glory that God gave to Him, and the profound effect it should have on us and those who encounter us. **Discuss different aspects of this glory:**

- **Our identity as children of God**
- **Seeing life lived with self-sacrificing love**
- **The ability to answer transgression with grace**
- **Any other aspect you recognize...**

4) [John 17:24] Jesus is praying that His followers would be where he is. **Where is Jesus at that moment?** (It may also help to read John 12:23-26.)

Why would Jesus pray for this?

5) [John 17:25-26] Jesus ends his prayer with an interesting statement: that He would continue to make God (or God’s name) known so that God’s love would be in us and that He Himself would be in us. **How does the Holy Spirit’s make it possible for Jesus’s work to continue through us?**

Bringing it home

6) With some exceptions, American culture tends to heavily emphasize individuals over groups of people. **How does your sense of individualism interact with your identity as a Christian—a member of the body of Christ? How does your identity as a Christian interact you’re your membership or participation in other groups** (like sports teams, political parties, social groups, etc.)?

7) How might you become more like a member of the body of Christ (the church) than you currently are? (Note that this might mean sacrificing on a personal level to participate more fully in the work of the church, or it might mean allowing yourself to more fully express the unique gifts the Spirit has given you.)