

CONTEXT

In John 13, Jesus stuns his friends by washing their feet. In chapters 14-16, he told them he would be leaving them, but that his departure would bring the Holy Spirit. In chapter 15, Jesus told them that the key to receiving the Holy Spirit's power is through abiding in him. Then, in their final moments together before Jesus is arrested and crucified, he prays for them in chapter 17.

Jesus prays for the same thing for his disciples and us. It's the one thing that could change us personally and the world around us also.

DISCUSSION

Lead the group in a prayer for wisdom. Next, have everyone read John chapter 17 to themselves. Then discuss the following questions about unity.

QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how passionate are your opinions in these categories?

___ Politics
___ Social Justice
___ Church (style or denomination)
___ Sports
___ Media
___ Work
2. Share your numbers with the group.
3. In your experience, has a disagreement about one of these topics caused a barrier in an important relationship? Explain.
4. Watch the video associated with this handout (13 minutes).
5. Read **John 17:20—23** out loud. In it, Jesus offers a prayer for future believers.
 - **What stands out to you?**
 - **In verse 23, Jesus prays for unity among believers. How would you define unity?**
 - **According to Jesus's prayer, why is unity important?**
6. What can you do to become more united with other believers?

