

JESUS SAID

WHEN JESUS PRAYED FOR US

(JOHN 17:20-23)

ICEBREAKER

Finish the sentence: "I know it's Fall when..."

INTRODUCTION

- When you need prayer and encouragement, what do you do or who do you call?
- How do you feel about asking others to pray for you? Do you welcome it or does it intimidate you? Why?
- What does your faith community look like? How has it helped you?

THE PRAYER OF JESUS FOR ALL CHRISTIANS (V. 20-22)

- In this passage, Jesus is praying for us to join together in unity, both with each other and in relationship with God. Are there any circumstances or situations that shake you and cause you to pull away from that? How do you recognize and remedy that disconnect?
- Why do you think Jesus' prayer was for unity versus anything else?
- Jesus prayed that our unity would be the result of our intimacy with God. How does our intimacy with God help with unifying with others?

- Not only did Jesus pray this prayer for us 2,000 years ago, but Romans 8:34 tells us that Jesus is absolutely praying for us today. What do you think about that? What do you think He's praying about for you right now?

THE WORLD NEEDS US TO GET THIS RIGHT! (V. 21, 23)

- In what ways are Christians divided today?
- The world we live in has all sorts of fruitless ways to make people conform to "their" way of thinking and living. What tempts you to withdraw from Christ and conform with the world?
- What does being united in Christ mean to you? How do you exemplify this in your life?
- Why does the world need Christians to get this right? What are some divisions/issues that the Church could bring some truth to? How?

WHEN JESUS PRAYED FOR US

(JOHN 17:20-23)

LET'S FIGHT FOR UNITY (PSALM 133)

Pastor Mike encourages us to unite around:

- Jesus is Lord of All
- The Holy Spirit and His Power
- We Believe God's Word and Live by It
- The Great Commission (Matthew 28)
- The Church is the Hope of the World
- LifePoint Church - Mission, Vision, Values
- What do you think a unified church would look like in our world?
- How have you experienced the "good and pleasant(ness)" that happens when God's people are in unity? Have you experienced the painfulness that happens when unity isn't present? How was it? Please share.
- Is there anything holding you back from being unified in and with Christ? Why? How can our small group help?

ACT ON IT

ENCOURAGE



How encouraging and powerful is it to know that we made Jesus' prayer list? He prayed for us, prayed for you, 2,000 years ago! We were on His mind then, and even now, Romans 8:34 tells us that Jesus is currently always praying for us! But did He pray for our breakthrough or our come up or our moment of fame? No, He prayed for all believers to be united, abiding in Christ. He desired that all Christians be of one mind, one heart, and one church because He knew that the world we face now would be vying to divide us. He knew that the world without Christ would be desperately hopeless and lost. There is strength in unity, even more when we are united in Christ. Our world needs to hear and see this message because it is desperately in need for salvation, peace, and for God. Jesus prayed this because of His desire to see us reach the world, but we cannot do that if we are too busy fighting each other. So let's stop arguing with each other and fight for the unity that Jesus prayed for us. For the sake of our world, let's be an answer to His prayer, not a hindrance.

WHEN JESUS PRAYED FOR US

(JOHN 17:20-23)

ASK



Who is on your prayer team? Considering the prayer that Jesus prayed for us, what have your prayers looked like lately? Do they need to be readjusted? What in your life is causing disunity? Does unity matter to you like it does to Jesus? Is there something you need God to help you set aside so you can fight for unity? What would it look like for you to fight for unity? Which of the areas to unite around are you already committed to? Which ones do you need to commit or recommit to?

CHALLENGE



Do you have your people that you can lean on for prayer? Let your intercessors know what is happening in your life this week and allow them to pray over you. If you don't have your prayer team yet, start building it. Find one person this week and ask them to pray for and with you. Need a starting place to unify with others? Use Serve Day on October 28th to get connected with others while serving your community.

PRAYER

Lord, we praise You and thank You for praying for us. You were thinking of us back then, and You are always praying for us now. We are blessed to know that we have an advocate with the Father who loves us and is interceding for us. Help us honor Your prayer for us by living it out. Lord, You made unity the main prayer for a reason. Give us the desire to love one another as You have loved us. We pray for a hunger to live in unity with each other, and through our intimacy with You, may we be united as one. Help us set aside anything that gets in the way of being together, in Christ. Our world desperately needs us to get this right, to bring hope and peace to dark and chaotic times. Help us keep the main message in front of us at all times so that we can reach those who need to be reached. And help us fight for and to protect the unity You prayed for. We want to please You, but we know that is not possible if we are not getting along. Soften our hearts, give us strength to stand up and stand out, and lead us where You need us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

THE PRICE WE PAY

(LUKE 14:25-33)

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever overcharged for something? Or even under charged? What did you do?

INTRODUCTION

- Pastor Mike encouraged us, as God's people, we have the weapon of prayer at our disposal. According to Psalm 122, we should pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the security of those who live there, and peace in Israel and the Middle East.
 - Please take a moment to pray for God's peace, hope to rise, hostages to be released, families to be comforted, wars & rumors of wars to be brought low, kings and rulers to lead under Christ, evil and terror to be stopped by the mighty hand of God, for the Church to be **BRIGHT** as ever, and the Gospel to go forth and be **RECEIVED!**
- In your own words, what is discipleship and what is salvation? Can you have one without the other? Please share.

JESUS OVER EVERYONE, JESUS OVER EVERYTHING (V. 25-26)

- It's one thing to follow a favorite band or performer. You might even go to their concert whenever they come into town. But, would you consider leaving your father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and even your own life to follow them? Can you see how much more Jesus was asking than most people were willing to give? Where have you failed in following Jesus?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus calls us to leave behind everything we believe and love to follow Him and be of the Gospel?
- Is anything taking place in your life before God? What is that thing or person and why do you allow it/them to be first, before God?

THE PRICE WE PAY

(LUKE 14:25-33)

JESUS OVER EVERYONE... (CONT.)

- How would your life change if you followed God first and then everything else was after that? Would your marriage be stronger? Would work be better? Would you need a new job? What about your friendships and what you do for entertainment?
- How do you put God first before everyone and everything? What does that look like in our lives today? How do we put God first and still get everything done that needs to be done?
- Read Luke 9:21-27. Why do you think Jesus gives such strong warnings? How would you communicate this to an unbeliever?

WE LIVE DEAD (V. 27)

- What does it mean to “live dead”? What would you see in someone living this lifestyle?
- Jesus calls us to lay down our pride and find real life by dying to our own selves. What prideful or self-serving things in your life do you maintain control of? Why?
- In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul says that our lives are not our own! We’ve been purchased with a price, that price is the Blood of Jesus! How are you glorifying God with your life?
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 reads, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself.” In what ways has this verse become true for you or for someone in your life?
- What ways are you struggling to let go of in order to be all in with Jesus? Does this make you feel like you’re giving up your own identity?

THE PRICE WE PAY

(LUKE 14:25-33)

WE COUNT THE COST (V. 28-33)

- What is a decision that you've made or need to make and how are you considering the costs associated with that?
- Where have you not given Jesus permission to reign in your life?
- Are you willing to repent against the things that don't honor God? Why or why not?
- In his book *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer talks about cheap grace and costly grace. He identifies that grace is costly because it calls us to follow, it costs a man his life, it gives a man the only true life, and it condemns sin. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Are you valuing the grace God gave you as much as you should? Why or why not?
- When you purchase an item you really want, you don't count the cost because you want it. Why is it different when it comes to Christ? Why do we struggle paying the price to follow Jesus, but not when buying items that add no value to our life?

ACT ON IT

ENCOURAGE



In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus knew He had to give His followers some tough love because He knew the price He was about to pay. His followers needed to know that just being in proximity of Him wouldn't be enough. Following Jesus requires an all out commitment to Jesus over everyone and everything, something so countercultural to the world both then and now. The Lord calls us to live dead, to put to death our old lives, upbringings, backgrounds, and our control. This is the hardest thing we're called to do by God, but if we say we're followers of Jesus, we have to do it, every day. What's the benefit of dying to yourself for Jesus? Are you willing to pay the price to be a true Christ follower? Will you accept the high price Jesus paid for you and go all in?

THE PRICE WE PAY

(LUKE 14:25-33)

ASK



What cross(es) do you need to be carrying and you're not? What do you need to submit to the Lord right now?

What things in your flesh need to die so you can live a life fully devoted to Jesus?

CHALLENGE



Challenge yourself to live for Jesus in your actions too, not just your words. Serve Day is coming up on October 28th! Find out how you can be involved at lifepointchurch.tv/serve. Take a moment and look at how you spend your day. What does it cost you in your relationship with God? What does it cost you when you choose things before God?

PRAYER

Today, we're taking the time to stop and praise Jesus for the cross, for paying the price for our sins. Jesus, You paid us a price for us, and now we get to pay a price for You. Help us choose to yield to You over everything and everyone. Give us the strength to set aside all of the things that make us comfortable so we can make room for You to lead us. Shine light on the things in our lives that we need to die to, the things that You want us to submit to You. Call us to a place of repentance and surrender. Help us develop a posture of daily surrender, that no matter what happens, we lay it at Your feet in surrender to You. Show us how to live everyday as a living sacrifice. Because You saved us, we want to live for You. And we ask all of this not to earn anything, but because You saved us, we want to live for You. Help us to keep you first and everything else second, as long as we live. Thank You for the challenge. In Your name we pray, Amen.

JESUS IS THE DOOR

(JOHN 4:21-24)

ICEBREAKER

Caramel apples or candy apples? Be ready to defend your position.

JESUS DESIRES RELATIONSHIP WITH US

- Jesus demonstrates this by seeking out the women at the well, despite knowing everything she'd ever done. Jesus knows everything about you, even your thoughts, and still desires a relationship with you. How does that make you feel?
- Jesus said true worshippers do so "in Spirit and truth" illustrating that there is only one way to worship and it is through the Holy Spirit. How does this revelation change your perspective?
- Jesus revealed to the woman at the well that she was worshiping what she did not know. Have you ever found yourself trying to worship God when you didn't truly know Him?
- Jesus calls us to dwell with him and find purpose in relation with him because he cares for us. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10). What is the fullness of life you've found since coming to Christ?

JESUS IS THE DOOR: THE PURPOSE OF THE TABERNACLE

- God's purpose of the tabernacle was a shadow to point us to the substance of Christ and answers the question "How can sinful humanity dwell with a holy God?" How did God dwell with sinful humanity before Jesus?
- Jesus said "Truly, truly, I am the door of the sheep" (John 10:7) and that "I know my own and my own know me." How does this reassure you of Christ's love?
- Hebrews 10:26 tells us that "there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins" because Jesus was "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". This is the substance of Christ. How have you let Christ's sacrifice cleanse you of your own sins and shame?

JESUS IS THE DOOR

(JOHN 4:21-24)

WE ARE THE NEW TABERNACLE

- 1 Cor 6:19 plainly states that the temple of the Holy Spirit, of God, is now our body since He dwells within us. How does this shift your view on walking in faith daily?
- Read Roman 8:16-17, which tells us that the Spirit himself bears witness that we are God's children, and if children, fellow heirs with Christ. How does this reality illuminate your position in and with Christ?

ACT ON IT

ENCOURAGE



Because Jesus serves “the door” that gives us access to God the Father, we can rejoice knowing that we live in unbroken relationship with Him! Furthermore, because we are the new “tabernacle” of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, we can live with confidence that God is with us always, in every season, and in every circumstance. The tabernacle contains many elements/furnishings that God used to create a pattern for His people to worship Him. And Jesus, as the fulfillment of that pattern, now tells us that the new pattern is to worship God in “spirit and in truth”. We now worship Him as Spirit-filled believers, according to the truth of the resurrection of Christ!

JESUS IS THE DOOR

(JOHN 4:21-24)

ASK



Do you think of yourself as God's temple? How can you let this change your words and deeds this week?



CHALLENGE

How can you glorify God as His temple this week?



Tell someone about Jesus, *the way, the truth and the life*. Invite them to walk through the same door you walked through, to drink the living water you drank.

As you reflect on the truth that Jesus is the door, rejoice in knowing that you have unlimited access to God the Father!! Pray, and ask God to connect you with at least one person this week, who hasn't entered through the "door" of Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom, and courage to share the invitation for them to come to Jesus

PRAYER

Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of salvation. No other name, no other way, no other person holds that power. We praise and honor You for being the Door. Only the name of Jesus opens the door to God's holy presence. We believe that You are the Son of God and that You came to die for our sins so we can be made right again with the Father. We rejoice that we get to be in relationship with Our Father again. Thank you for making Your plan clear to us. Now, show us how we can make this truth known to those around us. Reign in our hearts, fill us with your love and your light, and use us to spread this Good News. In this world that needs Your direction more than ever, move us to where You need us to be. Lead us. Speak to us. In Your name we pray, amen!!

THE GREAT INVITATION

(MATT 11:28-30)

ICEBREAKER

If you could meet one person in the world, work side-by-side with some expert in your field, or spend all of your time with someone you really admire, who would it be?

INTRODUCTION

- Do you recognize when you're tired? How do you know when you need rest?
- What is the difference between physical tiredness and soul tiredness?
- What is the rest you've found since you've come to Christ? If you haven't yet, where are you getting your rest from?

COME TO ME (V. 28)

- This passage starts with a very beautiful, simple invitation from Jesus: Come to me. Why do you think something so simple can be so hard to accept? Do you or did you struggle to accept it? Why or why not?
- What do you think Jesus meant by the words "Come to me"? What does this look like in your life?
- Share a time where you had to carry a "heavy load" in the past. How did carrying this affect your daily life? Emotionally? Spiritually? Relationally?

- What do you choose to bring to Jesus and what do you leave out? Do you only come to Jesus for certain things? Why?

TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU (V. 29)

- What does your yoke look like right now? What are you yoked to?
- Us accepting Jesus' invitation implies submission by us to Him and ownership by Him. How does this go against what culture says? How is this restful?
- Jesus' invitation to take His yoke upon us is an invitation to intimacy and partnership. He's describing a yoking together of Him and you, a stronger one is leading, and is placed with a smaller, less experienced one to train. How does that make you feel, knowing Jesus is there to lead and instruct you while carrying the bulk of the weight?
- Share a time in your life where you've been unequally yoked in a constructive manner, either as the stronger one or the weaker one. What did you learn?

THE GREAT INVITATION

(MATT 11:28-30)

- Paul said in 2 Corinthians 6:14 – “Do not be Unequally Yoked with unbelievers.” But there is another time where the two are yoked together, and it’s about training and teaching. Are there some unhealthy yokes you need to set aside? What would it look like to allow Jesus to carry the burden instead? Why have you chosen this way instead of others?

LEARN FROM ME (V. 29-30)

- Describe your relationship with Jesus. What are you learning from Him?
- What burdens have you learned to lay down from Jesus?
- We all need a plan to turn off the junk in our lives and just get yoked up with Jesus. What does that look like for you?
- If we’re not careful, we get “yoked up” with people and ideas and belief systems that are not moving us closer to Jesus, to be MORE like Him. And we aren’t “LEARNING FROM HIM,” but rather learning what our culture teaches and believes. How have you seen this in your life?

- If you’re new to learning from Jesus, what do you think He wants to teach you?

ACT ON IT

ENCOURAGE

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, has given us the best invitation of all!



It’s so easy and simple, yet it can be one of the hardest invitations to accept. When we come to Jesus, we get the promise of rest. No matter what we’re dealing with, He promises us rest for our souls. Jesus invites us to an intimacy and closeness that is meant to strengthen and grow us. Jesus knows the burdens that we try to carry on our own and offers us the greatest invitation - set aside our heavy yoke of sin and pick up His yoke. Not only that, He invites us to learn from Him as well. Instead of medicating in worldly ways, He wants us to learn the truth that only comes from being led by and walking with Jesus. If your soul is heavy, stop trying to do it alone and let Jesus carry the weight and get you some soul rest.

THE GREAT INVITATION

(MATT 11:28-30)

ASK

Are you tired? Is your soul heavy?
What burdens are you carrying?
How are you dealing with that? How
does Jesus want to help with that? What
keeps you from giving it to the Lord? If
you gave him the chance, what do you
think Jesus wants to teach you?

CHALLENGE

Set aside some time this week
to do these four things:

1. Surrender your whole life to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master and King forever!
2. Choose to come away with Jesus every day, week, and month! Study your Bible, pray (not just for needs), and spend time with Jesus!
3. Belong to His Family – Attend Church, Join a Small Group, Obey God.
4. Repent! In order to take His yoke, you have to remove yours!

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the invitation to come to You. Thank You that we can get true rest by getting closer to You. Thank You for being the true source of peace in our hearts, souls, and minds. Give us the strength to leave what's making us tired at Your feet, trusting that You are in control. What we're carrying is heavy, but Your yoke is light. Help us desire to seek You for rest and help us do it in a way that draws us closer to You so we can lean into You and learn from You. As we take Your yoke, teach us what that means and convict us to follow. And for those who have yet to come to You, show up in their lives like never before. Continue to speak to their hearts and open their eyes to the truth, that the invitation to come to You exists for everyone. Fill us with Your peace and bring us the rest that only You can bring as we continue to put our trust in You. Amen.