

THE HOUR HAS COME
JOHN 17:1-5//TODD DUGARD
APRIL 2, 2023



To pray as Jesus prayed means that I should also pray.... Heaven-directed (17:1a)....Christ-centred (17:1b-2)....mission-oriented (17:3-4)....keeping-the-big-picture-in-mind prayers (17:5)

GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

1) Philip Melancthon says, “There is no voice which has ever been heard, either in heaven or in earth, more exalted, more holy, more fruitful, more sublime, than the prayer offered up by the Son of God himself.”

Why do you think Jesus’ prayer is so powerful? Why should we be motivated to emulate it?

Jesus prayed for you and he is still interceding and advocating for you (Rom.8:34, 1 John 2:1, Heb. 7:25)? How does this impact your approach to prayer?

2) Todd mentioned in his sermon that we do not pray to angels, saints, idols or anything else but God the Father. Have you ever been confused about who you are praying to? How do you understand the way each person of the Trinity is involved in prayer?

When you go to pray, how do you envision God? Is he far away or is he close like a dad (Abba)? How might you maintain a reverence for God (the creator of all things) while approaching him with the familiarity as son/daughter?

3) Todd emphasized the importance of praying “Christ-centred” prayers that focus on bringing glory to God by surrendering to His will. When Jesus prayed in John 17 that “the hour had come” he knew that he would face great suffering! How are our prayers different when we pray for God to be glorified through our circumstances?

4) Todd states that the purpose of our lives as Christians is to make the name of Christ known to those who don’t know him. As a natural overflow of this mission, our prayers should be focused on people coming to know Christ. What some practical ways we can keep the urgency of our gospel mission in the forefront of our prayers?

5) At the end of his message Todd talked about “Big Picture Prayers” and he asked this question: “*Can I get to the place where I will see everything in my life—good and bad—as an opportunity for the gospel? And will I pray for that?*” This is a great challenge for each of us. Take time to evaluate your own life and pray for each other as you strive to emulate Christ in this way. In what ways could you make sure this mission is more central to your life daily?