

Following Jesus Every Day

A 5-Day Devotional Bible Study for Children

JOHN 17 | ASCENSION | PENTECOST



Jesus Prays For You

📖 **Key Verse:** "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one." — John 17:11

Devotional

Did you know that Jesus prayed for you? Right before he died on the cross, Jesus talked to God the Father about the people he loved. He did not pray for himself to be saved from pain. He did not ask for comfort. He prayed for his friends, and he prayed for us.

In the Gospel of John, we get to listen in on this very special, very private conversation between Jesus and his Father. It is like walking quietly into a room and hearing someone you love saying the most beautiful things about you. Jesus told his Father that he wanted all of his people to be protected. He wanted them to be close to God. And most of all, he wanted them to be *one*, the way Jesus and the Father are one.

That means you are included in Jesus's prayer. On the night before he died for the whole world, he was thinking of you. That is how much you are loved. You are not forgotten. You are not left out. You are held in the prayer of Jesus himself.

Reflection Questions

Question 1

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus prayed for you?

Question 2

Who is someone you can pray for today, the way Jesus prayed for his friends?

Question 3

What does it mean to be "one" with other people who love Jesus?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for praying for me. Thank you that I am never forgotten by you. Help me to feel your love today and to love others the same way you love me. Amen.

The In-Between Time

📖 **Key Verse:** "Why do you stand looking toward heaven?" — Acts 1:11

Devotional

Have you ever been in the middle of something and felt a little lost? That in-between feeling can be uncomfortable. The disciples knew it too.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he spent forty days with his friends. Then, on Ascension Day, he went up into heaven, and they stood there staring at the sky, not knowing what to do next. An angel had to gently ask them, "Why do you stand looking toward heaven?"

We do the same thing sometimes. We get stuck looking back or worrying ahead, and forget to take the next step. But God is still at work in the in-between. These are not empty times; they are times when God is preparing us for something new. The disciples did not know it yet, but Pentecost was coming, and everything was about to change.

Reflection Questions

Question 1

Have you ever felt stuck in the middle, waiting for something? What did that feel like?

Question 2

Why do you think the disciples kept staring up at the sky?

Question 3

What is one way God might be preparing you for something new right now?

Prayer

Lord, when I feel stuck or unsure, remind me that you are always working. Help me to trust you even in the in-between times, and give me courage to take the next step. Amen.

Jesus Keeps Moving

📖 **Key Verse:** "I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do." — John 17:4

Devotional

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared in many places. He met the disciples, walked with two friends to Emmaus, showed up in the upper room, cooked fish on the beach, and then returned to heaven on Ascension Day.

Would it have been easier if Jesus had stayed? He could have answered every question and solved every problem. But he kept moving because God's work is bigger than one place.

So the church must keep moving too. We cannot turn faith into a museum. We are called to keep growing, keep following Jesus, and carry the good news into the wide world.

Reflection Questions

Question 1

Why do you think Jesus did not just stay on earth after the resurrection?

Question 2

What does it mean for us to "keep moving" with Jesus?

Question 3

Is there something in your life where God might be calling you to move forward instead of standing still?

Prayer

Jesus, you never stopped moving, and your love never stops either. Help me to follow you bravely, even when I feel like staying comfortable. Lead me where you want me to go. Amen.

Do Not Freeze the Moment

📖 **Key Verse:** "This is my Son, my Chosen. Listen to him!" – Luke 9:35

Devotional

In the Bible, there is a wonderful story called the Transfiguration. Jesus took his friends Peter, James, and John up a mountain. All of a sudden, Jesus began to glow with a dazzling light. Then Moses and Elijah appeared beside him. It was the most amazing thing the disciples had ever seen.

And what did Peter want to do? He wanted to build three little shelters right there on the mountain so they could stay forever. He wanted to freeze that perfect moment in time. Can you blame him? It was incredible! But Jesus called them back down the mountain. There was more work to do. There were more people to love and heal and teach.

Sometimes we want to hold so tightly to the moments that feel safe and good and clear. But following Jesus means we trust him even when the mountain moment is over. The valley is where most of life happens, and Jesus is right there with us in it too.

Reflection Questions

Question 1

Why did Peter want to stay on the mountain?

Question 2

Have you ever wanted to freeze a moment that felt really good or safe?

Question 3

How can you trust Jesus when a good moment comes to an end?

Prayer

Lord, help me not to cling so tightly to what feels comfortable that I miss where you are calling me next. Thank you for being with me in every season. Amen.

We Are One

📖 **Key Verse:** "That they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you." — John 17:21

Devotional

The very last thing Jesus prayed for before he was crucified was unity. He asked his Father that all of his people would be one, the way Jesus and the Father are one. That is an extraordinary thing to think about. The night before he died, with all of his love and all of his hope, Jesus prayed that we would be together.

Unity does not mean we all have to be exactly the same. It does not mean we never disagree. It means that we are bound together by something much deeper than our differences. We belong to the same God. We are loved by the same Jesus. We are filled with the same Holy Spirit.

This is the good news we carry into the world. Not just that Jesus rose from the dead, but that he calls us to live together in love, to work together, to care for one another, and to show the world what it looks like when people truly belong to God. That is the prayer Jesus prayed for you. Live it today.

Reflection Questions

Question 1

What does being "one" with other Christians look like in real life?

Question 2

Is there someone you find it hard to get along with?
How might Jesus want you to treat that person?

Question 3

How can you show love and unity to someone today?

Prayer

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank you for calling me to belong to you and to your people. Help me to live in love and unity with others, just as Jesus prayed. Amen.