

Small Group Questions | United | John 17



Life can sometimes feel like the game of Jenga. Pieces are moving, things are unstable, and who knows what will happen next! In John 13-17, Jesus teaches the disciples in a famous part of Scripture known as the Upper Room Discourse. Today we reach the end of the Upper Room Discourse. For the last several chapters Jesus has taught about love, serving others, and the Kingdom of God. In today's Scripture Jesus prays for the disciples, and He prays for us. As we study John 17, we will see how Jesus longs for us to be united in a world that so easily causes division.

1. The sermon started with an example from the game of Jenga. Think about this example and share about the most vital parts of your spiritual life. How do you see the unity of the game of Jenga as an example of your spiritual growth?
2. **Read John 16:1-5.** Jesus' main desire was to bring glory to the Father. **Read John 1:1-5.** How does the relationship between God and Jesus encourage you to have a healthy relationship with your heavenly Father?
3. Neal said, "If God answered all your prayers from the last week, would the world be a better place?" What did this make you think of your prayer life? Read the following verses to help the discussion: **Matthew 5:44, Ephesians 6:18, and Colossians 1:9.**
4. **Read John 17:6-19.** Jesus prays for the disciples to be protected after He departs back to the Father. What are some of the troubles that the disciples encountered after Jesus' ascended back to Heaven? See **Acts 12:2, 14:19-20, and 1 Peter 1:1-2.**
5. While on earth Jesus was intentional to invest Himself in the disciples. Who are some of the people who have invested in your spiritual life? What did they teach you, and how can you follow their lead to invest in others? See **Matthew 28:18-20.**
6. **Read John 17:20-26.** Jesus prayed for you to stay strong in a hostile world and for unity in the local church. In your group come up with five practical ways that you can help promote unity in the local church.
7. Thinking of the entirety of John 17, how does this chapter impact your prayer life? Share with your group a handful of ways you want to grow in your prayer life and what will need to change for that to take place.
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for the unity of Ventura's local churches.