

Transition:

Before going to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prays for His disciples. Although He was talking to the Father, He was praying out loud. John recorded this prayer, which some know as the "High Priestly Prayer." This prayer shows Jesus' heart for us, how much He cares about us and our holiness. It is also some of the last things we learn from Jesus before the cross, so we should pay attention!

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Jesus mean by "not of the world" but in the world?
2. How can we glorify God by being in unity? (Verses 7-10)
3. How is Jesus sending us out? (Verse 13-19 is prayer for disciples, and verses 20-26 is prayer for those not yet saved).

Fundamental:

Jesus knows His disciples are about to deny and desert Him. Before praying for Himself in the Garden, He prays for his friends, the same people who won't stay awake to pray with Him during His darkest moment. Here we see unconditional love displayed. He forgave them before they had even sinned against Him.

Homework/Challenge:

1. Who is one person you can be more unified with in the body of Christ? Spend time praying for this person. Then, take action! Find a way to serve this believer. If you are able to serve with love, it is a good indication you have chosen forgiveness and unity.

Discipleship Tip:

Some people may be hesitant to reconcile with others. Encourage them to pray and ask God to transform their heart!

Prayer:

Lord, we pray that we will pursue unity and will chose to love and forgive each other and seek to make the church a place where unbelievers will see our love and believe in Jesus. Amen.