

The Prayer of Jesus (Middle and Upper Elementary)

May 16, 2021 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Overview

In this week's Gospel passage, we read part of Jesus' priestly prayer to God the Father just before His arrest. This prayer outlines Jesus' mission of salvation. In this lesson, students will reflect on what it means to be sent into the world like Jesus.

Directions

- A. Have your students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions.
- B. Review and discuss the answers when they have completed the focus questions.
- C. Arrange students into small groups and have them complete the **Belonging to the World** activity.
- D. When they have finished, call on groups to share their examples with the class.

Answer Key

Focus Questions

1. He says He is going to the Father. He is speaking of His coming Glorification attained by His Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension into Heaven.
2. He asks that they "may be one," that they be "kept from the evil one," and that they be "consecrated in the truth."
3. Judas, His betrayer.
4. He gave them the Word of God, which is Himself, according to the will of the Father.
5. He says that they "do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world," and that He sent them into the world, just as He was sent into the world by the Father.

Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of John 17:11–19: The Prayer of Jesus

“And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I

gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

Focus Questions

1. Where does Jesus say He is going? What does He mean?
2. What does Jesus ask on behalf of His Disciples?
3. Who might Jesus be talking about when He names “the son of destruction?”
4. What did Jesus give to His Disciples?
5. What comparisons does Jesus point out between Himself and His Disciples?

Belonging to the World

Directions: Working together in small groups, list three examples of how we, as disciples of Christ, “do not belong to the world.” How are these examples an imitation of Christ?

Example of not belonging to the world	How does it reveal Christ’s love to others?
1.	
2.	
3.	