



Jesus' Prayer to Keep Us Together!

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20250606/>

[Jesus said,] “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that of them may be one, Father . . . as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

John 17:20-26 (selected verses)

How long do you think people spend praying each day? A group of researchers wanted to find out! They discovered that on average people pray about 12 minutes every day. How about you? Do you talk to Jesus a lot? What do you usually pray for?

Sometimes we ask him for help or to make us feel better. Sometimes we ask for forgiveness or protection. We pray for ourselves and for our friends and family too.

But have you ever thought about this? Jesus prayed for YOU. That’s what we’re going to learn today. It was the night Jesus knew something really hard was going to happen. People would shout some horrible things about him. They thought Jesus should die. It was the night before Jesus went to the cross to take away all the horribly wrong things we’ve done.

Because so much was coming, Jesus prayed. And when he prayed to God the Father, he prayed for his friends—the disciples who were with him—and he prayed for us too! He said, “I also pray for those who will believe in me.” That means YOU! But what did Jesus pray for us?

Jesus asked God to help all of us who believe in him to stick together like one big family. Sometimes families don’t get along. Sometimes we argue or hurt each other’s feelings. But Jesus prayed for us anyway—because he loves us and forgives us. Because Jesus prayed for us, we can love, forgive, and pray for each other too! Jesus wants us to love each other so much that everyone can see God’s love shining through us.

So, when we pray for ourselves and for others, we can remember Jesus’ prayer for us. That can make us feel brave and happy when we talk to God.

Questions to Consider:

Who did Jesus pray for when he talked to God? (Everyone who believes in him, like his family.)

What does Jesus want us to do with our family and friends? (Love and stick together like a family.)

Why do you think Jesus wants us to be united like one big family? (Because Jesus wants us to show God's love.)

How can you show love or forgiveness to someone in your family or at school this week?

Jesus prayed for all believers to be united like a family, even though he knew we might sometimes disagree or get hurt. What is one way you could show love and forgiveness, like Jesus did, to help people get along when things are hard?

Jesus prayed for us to show God's love and goodness to the world by being united. What are some ways we can show this unity?