

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS PART TWO

CHECKLIST: WHAT YOU NEED

- A white board, easel pad, or chalk board with markers/chalk
- Pencils and pieces of paper
- Copies of the downloadable 622 service booklet
- Copies of the lesson handout
- Copy of the leader's notes
- OPTIONAL: Bibles (ESV or similar recommended)
- OPTIONAL: Have notebooks on hand for teens to take home and use as prayer journals if they wish

ICE BREAKER: NON DE HOC MUNDO

Write this phrase on your board: “*non de hoc mundo*”. Ask the teens to see how many words they can come up with by rearranging the letters. (*You can tell them at the close of the activity that this is Latin for “not of this world” – a phrase lifted from today’s lesson text.*)

DEPENDING ON YOUR GROUP, YOU MIGHT ASK THE TEENS TO WORK ON THE WORDS INDIVIDUALLY ON THEIR OWN PAPER OR IN TEAMS TO COMPETE FOR THE LONGEST LIST, OR HAVE THEM WORK ALL TOGETHER.

622: BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

Begin the formal part of the lesson by saying together the first part of the order of service for young people in the booklet, up to the middle of page 4.

AT THIS POINT IN THE LESSON, ASK IF THE TEENS SUCCEEDED IN DOING LAST WEEK’S CHALLENGE, HOW IT WENT, AND WHETHER THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE.

DISCUSSION: IF IT WERE YOUR LAST NIGHT

As an introduction to the lesson ask the teens to discuss the following questions.

DEPENDING ON THE COMFORT LEVEL FOR SHARING IN YOUR GROUP, IT MAY BE EASIER TO HAVE THEM VOLUNTEER ANSWERS WITH ALL RESPONSES WRITTEN TOGETHER ON A BOARD.

- If you had only one more night to live, what would you want to do with it?
- What sorts of things might you want to put “in order”?
- Let’s say you decided to write a letter to the people you cared about most, what sort of things would you want to include in the letter?

A few things worth pointing out (if they don’t otherwise arise during the discussion):

- *Your teens may be focused on experiences that they want to have before their life comes to an end. Allow them to consider that, but then use the second and third questions to focus them on the concerns they might feel for those they are leaving behind.*
- *If your teens have difficulty transitioning from a concern for themselves to a concern for others, an anecdote from you can help to shift the discussion. You might consider talking about wanting to financially provide for loved ones, wanting to ensure that funeral arrangements are taken care of, or wanting to ensure that anything and anyone precious to you (such as children) will be passed into the care of someone you trust.*
- *You might want to apologize to someone you’d hurt, or make sure that your parents know that you love them. You might want to leave your friends with a message of encouragement.*

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- *(Feel free to let these questions linger and don't worry if the answers are a bit off-the-wall. The main thing is to get them ready to consider that our lesson text comes from the last night of Jesus' earthly ministry so that they can begin to appreciate that there is some urgency to the things he chooses to say and pray.)*

THE LESSON: JOHN 17

The first part of the lesson can be read aloud. Then the teens are asked to read the Bible text (either silently to themselves or aloud together), followed by some additional questions for discussion.

John's Gospel devotes five whole chapters to a few hours that passed on one intense evening, while Jesus was observing the Passover with his disciples in the upper room. It was his last night, just before he was arrested to be crucified, and some of his most revealing teaching is given to us in these chapters.

The passage begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet, a moving gesture of humility and service, and an example to them of how they also ought to love and serve one another. He explains that he is about to go away to the Father, but that he will send the Holy Spirit to them.

This "farewell discourse", as it is sometimes called, closes with Jesus saying: "Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (16:32-33)

These words are followed by what is sometimes called the "high priestly prayer", the longest recorded prayer of Jesus, and one in which he prays for all of his disciples, including "those who will believe" in him "through their word" – that's us!

Refer to John 17: 1, 6-11, 14-24.

(VERSES HAVE BEEN CLIPPED FROM THE READING FOR THE SAKE OF BREVITY AND FOCUS, BUT IF YOU HAVE TIME TO EXPLORE THE PASSAGE FULLY, FEEL FREE TO READ IT IN ITS ENTIRETY: JOHN 17:1-24.)

(THE TEXT IS PROVIDED ON THE BACK OF THE HANDOUTS AND IN THESE LEADERS' NOTES SO THAT EVERYONE CAN MARK IT UP AND MAKE NOTES ON IT IF DESIRED. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN READ OUT OF A BIBLE).

Read through the text. Then ask the teens to respond to what they've just read. Here are some questions to help guide the discussion.

- What does Jesus' prayer tell us about how he sees us?
- What does his prayer tell us about the concerns he has for us?

A few notes and reflections for reference:

- *Jesus repeatedly talks about us as belonging, both to him and to the Father. He says we have been "given" to him. He makes a clear distinction between those who belong to him and those who belong to the world. In the same way that he is not of the world, we are not of the world. This is good because it means we belong to God and not to the world, but it also means that we will face difficulty in the world.*
- *Jesus is concerned that we be kept from the evil one, kept in God's name and in the truth. He is concerned that we should be "one" and the text indicates that this oneness is a witness to the world of Jesus being sent because of God's love. Jesus wants us to come to be with him.*

DURING EACH LESSON, IF THE TEENS RAISE THEOLOGICAL OR BIBLICAL QUESTIONS THAT YOU DON'T FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT ANSWERING, SAY SO, BUT LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER AND RESPOND AT THE NEXT MEETING.

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PREVIEW: AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Take a brief moment to look at the at-home challenge together.

THE WEEKLY "AT-HOME CHALLENGE" IS TYPICALLY A SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT TO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME IN PRIVATE PRAYER. ENCOURAGE THE TEENS TO GET NOTEBOOKS THAT CAN BE USED AS PRAYER JOURNALS. ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR JOURNAL OR THEIR PRIVATE PRAYERS TO ANYONE.

Each day, set aside some time to contemplatively pray with these phrases, lifted from the high priestly prayer of Christ. You may choose to pray the personal version ("I am") or the collective version ("we are"). Spend some time in silence, considering the rich meaning of each phrase, and remembering that Jesus prayed these things for us.

Father, I am yours.

Father, keep me in your name.

Father, do not take me out of the world, but keep me from the evil one.

Father, sanctify me in the truth of your word.

Father, let your Church be one.

Father, let me come to be with Jesus, where you are.

Father, we are yours.

Father, keep us in your name.

Father, do not take us out of the world, but keep us from the evil one.

Father, sanctify us in the truth of your word.

Father, let us be one.

Father, let us come to be with Jesus, where you are.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this prayer, pausing to reflect after each phrase.

We yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate us with thy Holy Spirit, to receive us for thine own children by adoption, and to make us members of thy holy Church. Grant that, being now born again, and made heirs of everlasting salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, we may continue thy servants, and attain thy promises; through the same Lord Jesus Christ thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

(PRAYER AT A BAPTISM, BCP PAGE 539)

622 (AGAIN)

Close with any prayers that might be appropriate in the context of the discussion of the day.

AT THE END OF EACH LESSON, IF YOU FIND THAT YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME REMAINING, YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO EXPLORE THE "PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS" SECTION IN THE BCP (PAGES 39-62, OR YOU CAN USE THE DOWNLOADABLE BOOKLET). AS YOUR GROUP MEMBERS COME ACROSS PRAYERS THAT THEY FIND RELEVANT, PAUSE AND PRAY THEM TOGETHER. IF YOU'RE PRESSED FOR TIME, YOU MIGHT CLOSE WITH THE THEMED PRAYER FROM THE AT-HOME CHALLENGE.

Then finish with the "Grace", the final prayer in the booklet.

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JOHN 17: **THEY ARE YOURS... KEEP THEM...**

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come...

⁶ “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one... ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am...”