

# Praying the “Prayer of Jesus” for the Children

In reading John 17:1-26 we find ourselves at the feet of Jesus before his death. These words are profound and can guide us as to how we should pray for our children. We see in this passage that Jesus prayed for:

1. God’s glory (John 17:1-5)
2. Keeping and Sharing God’s Word (John 17:6-8)
3. Our lives to bring Him glory (John 17:10 see also John 15:8)
4. Our oneness with God and each other (John 17:10-11)
5. Our spiritual protection (John 17:12)
6. Our joy in Him (John 17:13)
7. Us to be “in” the world but not “of” it (John 17:14-16)
8. Our sanctification in the truth through God’s Word (John 17:17)
9. Our lives to point others to Jesus and glorify God (John 17:20-25)
10. Our oneness with Jesus and His love (John 17:26)

As a follower of Christ and as a minister in the church for our Children, are these priorities reflected in our lives? When we pray for our kids, are we praying for these things?

- That they glorify God in all they do.
- That they hold fast to God’s Word and share His Word with others.
- That Jesus is glorified by their good works.
- That their hearts are protected by God.
- That their joy in life is to know Jesus.
- That they do not become entangled with the world but engage it for Christ.
- That they die to self and become more like Jesus every day.
- That they point others to Jesus in word and in action.
- That they are filled with the love of Jesus.

This is not to say we can’t pray for other things for our children, that they do well in their studies, that they find a good job or that they find a God-honoring spouse. These are good things. However, they are not the most important things. What is apparent within Jesus’ prayer is that God cares most about His glory, our oneness within Him, our sanctification (becoming more like Jesus) and sharing His Word and love that others may come to know Him and His glory.

## Praying “The Prayer of Jesus” for the children:

*God of Goodness,*

*I lift the children to You Lord, knowing they are Yours. Grow them in a way that roots their heart, soul, and mind to You through Jesus. May they be all about glorifying You with the life You’ve given them. Let them cling to Your Word as they seek to live it and share it. Give them a*

*servant's heart like Christ that they may seek to glorify Jesus in everything they do. May their fullest joy be knowing Jesus and sharing in the oneness with the Eucharist. Please keep them set apart for You - in the world but not of the world so that they may be strong, faith-filled adults. Through the work of the Holy Spirit make them more like Jesus Christ. Let them stay focused on the mission to live and share Your love and thus draw others to You. Amen.*