

As you read...

What does it mean to *have life*? It's a question we started this journey with and it's one that is crucial to the work Jesus accomplished and continues to do in our lives.

Today, as Jesus prays an extensive prayer here in John 17 on His final night before the cross, Jesus takes us one step closer to answering that question. Rather than asking what it means to have life, He defines what *life* is in the first place. He says,

“This is eternal *life*: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent—Jesus Christ.” *John 17:3*

So here's a new question for you to ponder: how well do you know the only, true God and Jesus Christ, the one He has sent? If that's an overwhelming question that is totally understandable. After all, He is *God*. He's incredible and in many respects beyond comprehension.

So let's start at a basic level: if you want to know and appreciate *who* God is, take a look at what He's done.

Isn't that what Jesus has been doing throughout His ministry? Jesus from the start has made abundantly clear that His sole purpose is to make known what God is doing and that the work He is setting out to accomplish is identical to the work the Father is doing.

And what is that work? Redeeming the world that He created—making all things new again. Take some time to listen today as you read. Here again and come to appreciate who God is by seeing what He's done.

Read [John 17:1-8](#)

Jesus Prays for Himself

17 Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal *life* to everyone you have given him. ³ This is eternal *life*: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent –Jesus Christ. ⁴ I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory I had with you before the world existed.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶ “I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from the world. They were yours, you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ because I have given them the words you gave me. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from you. They have believed that you sent me.

Questions

1. Jesus has been a pretty consistent teacher often sharing things we've heard before. Good teachers repeat things that they feel are important for their students to remember. What do you notice this time that Jesus has shared before?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to specifically repeat those things? What makes them important even for someone like you and me today?
3. How well do you know God? Today's devotion is an invitation for you to take deeper steps into knowing Him.

Think of someone in your life whom you feel really knows God. Talk with them this week about the best ways to grow deeper and come to know God. Send them a message now letting them know that you'd like to talk with them about a question. Share with them about this devotion and then hear what they have to say. Be sure to ask questions if you have them, too!

A moment to pray.

Holy Spirit, You have given me faith through Your Word and in the waters of baptism. In Your Word I have come to know You. Help me to know You better. Give me wisdom in this moment to discern my next steps and courage to take them. I want to know You better. I want to embrace the eternal life that You have given me. In Jesus' name. Amen.