

Soli Deo Gloria: Living for God's Glory

John 17:1–5; 20–26



CONTENTS

WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus 1

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God 1

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word 2

WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask each GG member to share with the group a time when they felt proud of something that they have accomplished. What was it that made their accomplishment a thing in which they prided themselves? Use this to segue into the lesson, that God alone deserves all glory.

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God

Suggested song:

- [To God Be The Glory](#)
- [His Glory and My Good](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will follow Christ's example of submission to God's will so that God may be glorified.
2. GG members will commit to loving one another in unity so that God may be glorified.

INTRODUCTION

The last of the five solas is *Soli Deo Gloria*, meaning glory to God alone. Indeed, God alone deserves all glory and praise because His words alone are truth, because He provided humankind salvation by His grace alone, because the gift of salvation is received through faith alone and not works, and because the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone is what makes salvation possible.

Jesus prayed that God be glorified through His sacrifice on the cross (vv. 1-5)

Jesus knew that the time of His suffering, death, and resurrection was close at hand. So, He prayed to God that He be glorified through Christ's accomplishment of His mission here on earth, that is, His sacrifice on the cross.

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, "the hour has come?" What was He referring to? (cf. John 2:4; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23; 13:1)
2. What authority did God give to Jesus Christ? (cf. John 4:14; 6:27; 10:28)
3. How did Jesus define "eternal life?" What does this tell us about the nature of eternal life?
4. How did Jesus glorify God while He was here on earth? How will God glorify Jesus because He glorified God on earth? (cf. Philippians 2:8-11)

Application

Jesus Christ came to earth to accomplish God's will, and that is to redeem humanity by dying on the cross. Ironically, both God and Jesus were glorified when He died the most humiliating death on the cross. In what ways can you follow Christ's example of submitting to God's will? How is God glorified when you submit to His will?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Jesus prayed that all believers be one among themselves and with God (vv. 20-26)

Jesus prayed for all believers, including us, that we would be one just as He and God were one. Jesus revealed that God is glorified when believers in Christ love each other in unity.

1. What did Jesus pray for all believers (even future believers)? Why should believers be united in Christ? (cf. Ephesians 4:3-6) What effect will this unity have on those who witness it?
2. Why did Jesus share his glory with all believers? What will those outside the church conclude when they witness communities of believers being united in love? (cf. Romans 8:29-31; Matthew 5:16)
3. What did Jesus pray to God for in verse 24? What assurance can believers in Christ derive from this?
4. What was one purpose why Jesus revealed God to believers? (cf. 1 John 4:7-8)

Application

Christ died on the cross not just to pave the way for people to be reconciled to God. Christ desires that all believers love one another in unity so that God may be glorified. How can you extend love to people in church, and maintain the unity and bond of peace in Christ's body so that God may be glorified?

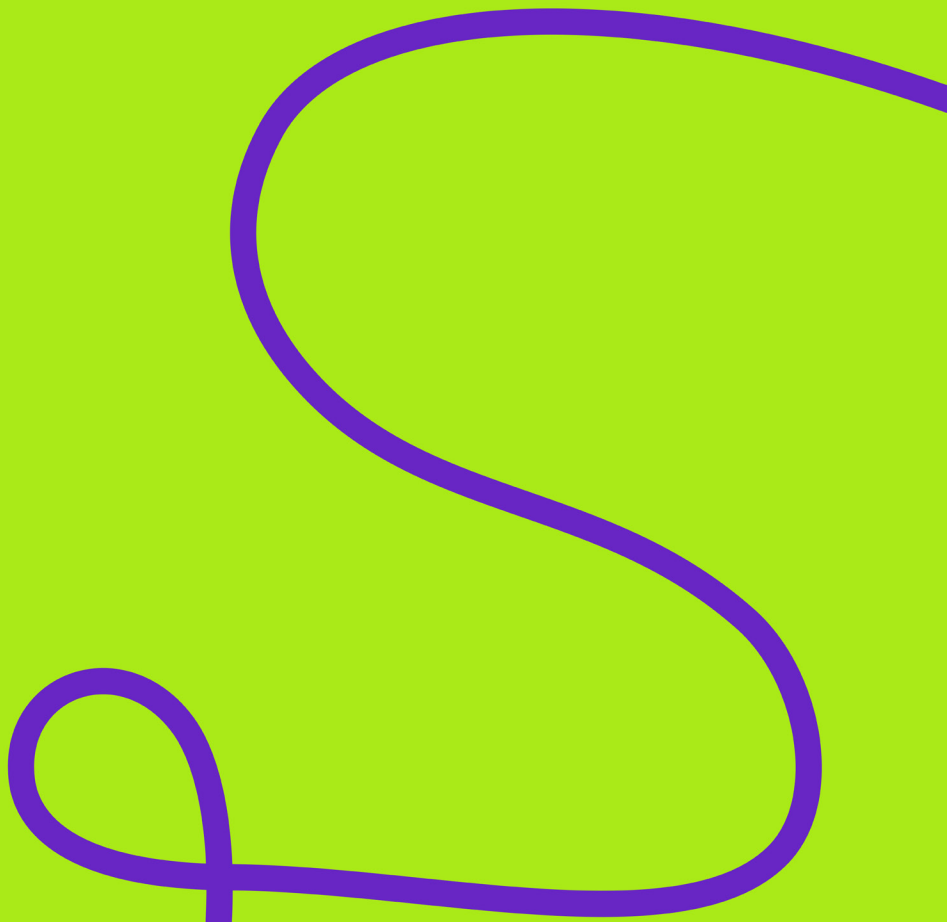
PRAYER ITEM

Dear God, I praise You, I worship You, I honor You. Truly You alone deserve all glory, honor, and praise. Thank You for pouring out your love, grace, and mercy upon us and reconciling us back to Yourself. Thank You for establishing the church, the body of Christ, and uniting all believers into one body. I offer my life to You, Lord, to do as You desire me to do, that Your name may be glorified. May You cause me to be a reflection of You so that people will see You in me and come into a personal relationship with You. All this I pray in Jesus' name. Amen. ■



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