

Christ Church Kid's Lesson

In the World, but Unique - John 17:1-11

This is a fun Bible Object Lesson you can do with your kids about Jesus' prayer for all believers. It's based on John 17:1-17. Where he explained that Christians are in the world, but are different because they belong to his Kingdom.

Grab a jar or glass with water, oil, food coloring (if you don't have food color just omit this step)



Start by asking some questions.

How will people know that we love Jesus?

What should we do as Christians to make sure that we live in a way pleasing to God?

Do you think it's better to try to stay away from things that are not very Spiritually-related, or should we make sure that we are close to non-Christians so we can influence them?

These questions have been debated for centuries.

There are some people who believe that we can best serve the Lord by being totally removed from society and separate from anything that might tempt us to do wrong. People like monks, hermits, or even certain community groups practice a way of life that is purposely apart from most others, in order to pursue God wholeheartedly. There's nothing wrong with this focus, of course, but it's not the only way to live. In fact, it's possible for us to live right in the middle of sin, but still love and serve God and our neighbors.

Let me show you what this might look like...

Let's say that this material represents the main "secular" (not Christian) society (*hold up a glass or jar full of water*).

Well, as we know, we are all sinful, so the people and things here might not always be the best for us spiritually (*optional: add food coloring to represent the "sin"*). Now, as Christians, full of the Spirit and the love of Christ, we have something special.

So we can be in this society (*pour in a small amount of oil, and watch it float above the water*), but still remain separate from it. If this oil represents us as Christians, you can see that it is in the same area as the "world", but is not completely mixed up in it. We can be in the world, but still have a unique way of living. People should see that there is something different about us. When we love God, that love should just flow right out of us, so that others can tell we have something they want. We should act kindly towards those around us, and we should be obedient to the Lord. But you know what? That can be difficult! We just can't do it on our own, in fact.

Jesus knew that sometimes it is hard to serve Him and to act differently than the rest of the world. Did you know that Jesus prayed for us? When He was with His disciples, He prayed to God the Father and He asked God to be with them and help them. He

recognized that He (Jesus) would be leaving Earth, but that the people would still be there, and needed to serve and witness to the world.

That special prayer applies to us, also. We can be unified in our love for God and for one another. We can demonstrate the love of Jesus to those around us. We are in the world for now, but we want people near us to know that we love and care for them, and that we do so because of Jesus. We want people to know that we are unique, separate because of Jesus. We want to share that hope. We know that it comes from Jesus, and that we want others to know Him, too!

The world won't always understand what it means to be a follower of Christ. And we can't be "perfect Christians" in any sense. But Jesus did the work for us. He allows us to rest in His glory, and brings us into fellowship with the Father.

What a beautiful promise this is. God loves us enough to give us His son, Jesus. He has also given us the Holy Spirit to remind us of His love. We can pray through the help of the Holy Spirit, and it can bring us back to a recognition of God's presence.

Our activities today help teach us the Lord's Prayer and show us some other ways we can pray. There is no right or wrong way to pray, but sometimes we need something to help us focus and to guide us.

John 17:1-11 The High Priestly Prayer

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

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. —[John 17:1-11](#)