

Read John 17:6-23

This is a notoriously difficult text to read, not because it is too complex but because it is repetitive. To help comprehension, read it aloud once. Have everyone read it quietly once and write down anything that stands out. Now read it aloud again.

Textual Observations (10 Minutes)

1. What did you see in the text that stood out to you? Why did it stand out?
2. What specific things does Jesus ask his Father to give/provide/cultivate in his followers?

Discussion Questions:

1. For our purpose tonight let's settle on verse 18. Why was Jesus sent into the world? In what way has he sent his followers into the world? In what way do you believe he has "sent" you into the world?
2. Most Christians believe this text applies to them, that they are sent by Jesus into the world but often time we don't see much fruit from our efforts in this area. Why do you think this is the case? What barriers stand in the way of us living like "missionaries" to our friends, neighbors, coworkers? Does our church or our groups serve as a barrier or a help to you living this way?
3. In verse 20-21 Jesus indicates one of the key ways the world will recognize him. What is that exactly? In what ways does our church or our groups display this type of "oneness"? In what ways do they lack?

"Sentness" is not just for missionaries to foreign lands. The shift is for all of us—students and workers, parents and kids...Our mission is often right in front of us: our street, neighborhood, work place or city.

-Kim Hammond

Next Steps

Take time to pray for the Lord's direction for your group. Planning is in vain unless we seek his direction and his will.