



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: THE PRAYER

The Prayer of Jesus (John 17:8-18)

Small Group Guide: Sanctification - God's Work in Us

Opening Question:

What does the word "sanctification" mean to you? How would you explain it to someone unfamiliar with Christian terminology?

Key Takeaways:

1. Sanctification is only possible because of the sacrifice of Jesus.
2. Christ enables us to participate in our sanctification with the Father and Spirit.
3. God often works through uncomfortable and inconvenient circumstances to sanctify us.
4. We participate in God's sanctifying process by leaning into Him in all circumstances.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor mentioned that many people try to achieve holiness through following rules or separating themselves from others. Why do you think this approach is ineffective? Have you ever experienced this in your own life?
2. How does understanding sanctification as both a position (declared holy) and a process (becoming more like Christ) change your perspective on your Christian walk?
3. The sermon highlighted that God often works through difficult circumstances to sanctify us. Can you share an experience where you've seen God use a challenging situation to grow your faith or character?

4. Why do you think Jesus prayed for our sanctification? What does this reveal about His desires for us?
5. The pastor emphasized the importance of surrounding ourselves with believers who may disagree with us. Why is this valuable for our spiritual growth? What challenges might we face in doing this?
6. How can we practically "lean into God" during difficult circumstances instead of running away or trying to control the situation ourselves?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to spending time in Scripture daily this week. Use the two-list method mentioned in the sermon:
 - What does this passage teach me about God?
 - How should I respond to who God is?
2. Identify an area of your life where you've been resisting God's work. Pray for the strength to surrender it to Him and ask a trusted friend to hold you accountable.
3. Reach out to a fellow believer who you know has different perspectives on some issues. Invite them for coffee or a meal to have a respectful discussion about your differences.
4. Practice listening more and speaking less this week, especially in situations where you're tempted to argue or prove your point.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the work of sanctification you're doing in our lives. Help us to cooperate with your Spirit, leaning into the process even when it's uncomfortable. Give us the courage to surround ourselves with diverse believers who can challenge and sharpen us. May we grow in holiness and become more like Jesus each day. Amen.