

# HOW TO PRAY LIKE JESUS

## Lifegroup Questions

*Read John 17:1-5*

- What is Jesus talking about when he says 'the hour has come' and in what way does he expect to be glorified? (Also see John 8:27-28)
- What do you think is the main focus of Jesus prayer for himself? What sort of things do you pray for when you pray for yourself? How do they differ from Jesus prayers? (Also see Matthew 26:39)

*Read John 17:6-19*

- What does this section of the prayer teach us about Jesus heart for his disciples? Why does he pray this prayer in front of them? What does he want for their future? (Also see Luke 6:12-13, Acts 1:7-8)
- What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? How can get better at encouraging each other in our own discipleship journeys? (Also see Hebrews 10:25)

*Read John 17:20-26*

- Who is Jesus praying for in this last section of the prayer? What is Jesus hope for future believers (the Church)?
- What did you think of the modern parable that Dan read on Sunday? (Included below) What might we learn from it? Who are you praying for, that they would come to know Jesus at the moment?

On a dangerous seacoast, where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a crude, little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves or their safety, they went out day and night, tirelessly searching for the lost. Many lives were saved by this wonderful, little life-saving station, so it became famous.

Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding area, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought, and new crews were trained, and the little life-saving station grew.

Some of the members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. So, they replaced the emergency cots and beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building.

Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members. And they decorated it beautifully and furnished it exquisitely because they used it as sort of a club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions; so, they hired life-boat crews to do that work. The life-saving motif still prevailed in the club's decorations, and there was a liturgical lifeboat in the room where club initiations were held.

About this time, a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in loads of cold, wet, half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick. And the beautiful, new club was considerably messed up. So, the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where the victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the life-saving activity altogether because it was unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon life-saving as their primary purpose. They pointed out they were still called a life-saving station, but they were finally voted down and told if they wanted to save the lives of various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast, which they did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another life-saving station was founded. And history continued to repeat itself. And if you visit that coast today, you'll find a number of exclusive clubs along the shore. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, and most of the people drown.