



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

The Shepherd's Prayer For His Disciples

Bible Reading: John 17:6-19

I. Background – the disciples are about to be scattered by Jesus' death

A. It is a prayer of a shepherd, not as a high priest

B. Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10) who cares for his sheep

1. He is concerned for them as he is about to leave the earth

2. He is concerned that they will be scattered (16:32) so he prays for their oneness

C. Praying to the Father with the disciples being present

II. Jesus Reviews His ministry – 17:6-8

A. His mission

1. Revealing (manifesting) the Father's name to the disciples

2. They are given by the Father to the Son – they are chosen

3. Jesus gave them the words from the Father

B. The disciples' response

1. They have kept the Father's word – v. 6

2. They know and believe – v 8

C. Jesus' positive view of the disciples

III. Praying for their protection – 17:9-16

A. Jesus is glorified in them – vv. 9-10

B. "Holy Father, protect them by your name"

1. They are in the world while Jesus is leaving the world

2. That they may be one as the Father and Son are one- v. 11

a. No indication of disharmony

b. A unity of the flock under one Shepherd (10:16)

c. A unity of the nature of the Son with the Father – not legislated, not organized

d. A unity that comes from our relationship with the Father and the Son

3. Jesus protected them while he was with them – v. 12

4. Jesus gave them the Father's word and the world hated them because they are not of the world – v. 14

5. Protect them from the evil one – v. 15
6. They are not of the world – v. 16
7. We are protected and kept by the Father

IV. Praying for their commission – 17:17-19

A. Sanctify them by the truth

1. Sanctify – set apart for a purpose, a commission, a special use
2. By the Truth (in the Truth) –

B. They are being sent into the world

C. Jesus sanctified Himself – v. 19

V. Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, has a positive perspective regarding his disciples