

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For week of July 11, 2021

MY STORY

Think of some organizations/groups that you have been a part of. What was it that attracted you and kept you a part of them?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

DIGGING DEEPER

Of all the things He could have prayed for His followers, Jesus chose unity. Why do you think He did that?

What is the difference between unity and uniformity? Is there a place for both of them in the church?

Jim said that love is the foundation of unity. What does that love look like? Rom. 14:1-8, 13-19; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; Eph. 4:29-32; Phil. 2:1-4; 1 Jn. 3:16-18

Our culture emphasizes and celebrates diversity. How does biblical unity fit in this line of thinking?

Are there boundaries for unity in the church? What are they and who is responsible for them? 1 Jn. 1:3-6; 2 Jn. 6-11; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; Gal. 1:6-9; Titus 1:7-11, 2:1-5; 1 Pet. 5:1-3

What are some ways that we as Jesus followers can demonstrate our unity to our community?

PRAYER REQUEST

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Small Group. We've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a request is introduced, the group focuses on that request. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE

Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray out loud.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT & SIMPLE

Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missionaries of the Month Please pray for Ed and Ruth Scott as they serve with the Navigators.

Vacation Bible School VBS starts THIS WEEK! You can bring your kids even if you haven't signed up: 9am to noon.



The Gospel of John---That You May Believe ***Jesus' Farewell Prayer Part 3 – The Mission of Unity*** ***John 17:20-26 (ESV) Jim Vandermeer July 11, 2021***

I Demonstrated Unity Brings Belief

The world will believe because--

- We are unified like a body
- We are mysteriously united together in Christ
- We are united together in truth

II Love is the Foundation of Unity

- It is a complete unity
- It is a shared revelation of God's glory
- It is not unanimity or uniformity

III Unity Makes Known the Name of God

- By continued outreach and evangelism
- By revealing the love of God
- By fulfilling the purpose of Jesus' life and ministry

Restored unity can ONLY come from the Lord: As we press into him more, we become focused again on what he

*desires for us – growing in Him, pursuing the things of him
and reaching the lost.*