**Going deeper in John 17:20-26**

**INTRODUCTION**

The following passage is the last part of an extraordinary prayer of Jesus. This prayer has been referred to as the Lord’s “Lord’s Prayer.” He is headed for the cross and He has prayed for Himself and His work. Then He prays for the disciples who were with Him at that time. Then in the following passage He prays for you and I.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

20 I am not praying only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them be one as you, Father, are in me and I in you that they may be one in us so that the world may believe that you sent me. 22 And the glory you gave me, I gave to them, that they may be one just as we are one. 23 I in them and you in me, so that they may have complete or perfect unity, so the world might know that you have sent me and you have loved them as you have loved me. 24 Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am so that they can see my glory which you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 25 Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you and they know that you have sent me. 26 And I have made your very being known to them and I will continue to make you known so that your love for me might be in them as I myself are in them.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. According to these verses why is unity or oneness important among believers? What does that unity reflect?

2. According to verse 21 what will be the result of that unity?

3. Dale Bruner in his commentary on the Gospel of John suggests that the reference to “glory” may actually be a reference to the Holy Spirit (also see John 7:37-39). Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

4. The word for glory means splendor or brightness. When it is used in the new testament in reference to a person it means having a good or praiseworthy view of someone. What is praiseworthy about Jesus for you right now?

5. Why are the references to God the Father’s love for God the Son before the creation of the world important? What does that say about the divinity of Jesus?

6. In what ways does verses 25-26 sum up the why Jesus stepped into our world?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord for His love for you that existed before you were ever born.

\*Ask the Lord to show you what your part might be in bringing unity among disciples of Jesus.

\*Ask the Lord to enable you by the power of the Holy Spirit to show God’s love to those who are far from God (the world) today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Christians together are to be a group that is driven by the love of God for the world. They are to be a group of people working for unity – blessed are the peacemakers. How is God calling you to be a peacemaker this week? Our world currently needs people who are reasonable peacemakers driven by the love of God. Will you be that kind of person this week?