AKRONGRACE

# 5-Day Devotional

## Jesus Prays for His People

John 17




Jesus' Earthly Ministry

October 19–23, 2026

## Scripture

John 17:1–26 (NLT)

1 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come.
Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. 2 For you have given him authority over everyone.
He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. 3 And this is the way to have eternal life—to
know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. 4 I brought glory to you
here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 Now, Father, bring me into the glory we
shared before the world began.

6 “I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave
them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you,
8 for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came
from you, and they believe you sent me.

9 “My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. 10 All
who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. 11 Now I am
departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you
have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united
just as we are. 12 During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I
guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures
foretold.

13 “Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would
be filled with my joy. 14 I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not
belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I’m not asking you to take them out of the
world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to this world any more than I
do. 17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. 18 Just as you sent me into
the world, I am sending them into the world. 19 And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they
can be made holy by your truth.

20 “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their
message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I
am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 “I have given them the
glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they
experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as
much as you love me. 24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am.
Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

25 “O righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. 26
I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I
will be in them.”

# Day 1  Knowing the Father We Come To

## Theme

Jesus brings us into life with the Heavenly Father He has known eternally.

## Scripture

John 17:1–5

## Devotional

What keeps you awake after a difficult phone call about someone you love? A child is struggling, a spouse is waiting for test results, or a parent needs more help than you can provide. You replay the conversation, wondering what else you could do. Even after you pray, the worry returns. It can leave you wondering whether our Heavenly Father understands how much this person means to you.

John records Jesus praying on the night before His crucifixion. Jesus asks His Father to glorify the Son so the Son can give glory back to the Father. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus will complete the Father's saving work. He describes eternal life as knowing the Father and Jesus Christ, whom the Father sent. The life Jesus gives includes a relationship with His Father that begins now and continues beyond death.

Jesus knows whom He is speaking to. In verse 5, He speaks of the glory He shared with the Father before the world began. Jesus brings us to the Father He knows perfectly. Our Heavenly Father understands our concern and loves the person we are worried about. His wisdom reaches beyond what we know, and His power reaches beyond what we can do. We can bring Him our fear, trusting His faithful love while the situation remains unresolved.

## Going Deeper

Jesus is one Person, fully divine and fully human. His reference to glory before creation reveals His eternal life with the Father. His coming death will not end His care; He knows He will rise again. Our hope rests in this living Savior and the relationship He gives us with His Father. In Sunday's message, Pastor Rob described the life Jesus wants His people to know:

## Quote from Sunday’s Message

*Jesus is describing life in relationship with His Father, beginning now and continuing beyond death. That's the life He wants the Father to protect.*

## Reflect

1. When you bring a worry to our Heavenly Father, what do you expect His attitude toward you to be?

2. Which truth about the Father revealed by Jesus could shape how you approach Him with one concern today?

## Today’s Practice

Write down one worry. Beside it, name what you need to trust about our Heavenly Father today: His wisdom, His power, or His faithful love. Connect that truth to the concern you named.

## Closing Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank You for making Yourself known through Jesus and welcoming me through Him. Help me bring You my fear with confidence in Your wisdom, power, and faithful love. Amen.

# Day 2  Caring for People Who Belong to the Father

## Theme

We can entrust people to our Heavenly Father while continuing to care for them.

## Scripture

John 17:6–12

## Devotional

Have you ever left someone's home and kept thinking about everything they still needed? You listened, helped with an appointment, or did what you could around the house. Yet on the drive home, you wondered whether you had done enough. Love can leave us feeling responsible for more than we can possibly manage.

In verses 6–10, Jesus speaks of disciples who already belong to His Father. Jesus has revealed the Father and given them the Father's message. They have received that message and believe the Father sent Him. As Jesus prepares to return to the Father, He asks for these men to be protected in the Father's name and kept united. He entrusts them to the Father who has loved them all along.

Receive that truth for yourself first: as a follower of Jesus, you belong to the Father. His care includes you as you care for someone else. So when you drive home wondering whether you have done enough, you can ask what help is yours to give and entrust what exceeds you to Him. Intercessory prayer means bringing another person's needs to the Father. You can keep showing up without making yourself responsible for making everything turn out well.

## Going Deeper

Jesus' protection has included revealing the Father and teaching the disciples His word. Their life together is rooted in whom they belong to. His mention of Judas acknowledges the betrayal foretold in Scripture without suggesting that the Father's purpose has failed. We cannot duplicate Jesus' divine authority, but we can follow His example of entrusting people to the Father. Pastor Rob put that confidence this way:

## Quote from Sunday’s Message

*They belong to the Father and the Son. So when Jesus entrusts them to the Father, He is bringing them to someone who has loved them all along.*

## Reflect

1. Where do you feel responsible for an outcome you cannot control?

2. How could bringing that person to the Father in prayer change the way you continue caring today?

## Today’s Practice

Pray for one person by name. Tell our Heavenly Father what concerns you, ask for His care, and acknowledge one outcome you cannot control. Entrust that person to His love as you continue offering the care you can give.

## Closing Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank You that I belong to You through Jesus. Teach me to bring the people I love to You and to care faithfully without trying to carry what only You can carry. Amen.

# Day 3  Guarded While We Remain in the World

## Theme

Jesus asks the Father to guard our faith as we continue His mission amid trouble.

## Scripture

John 17:13–16

## Devotional

Have you ever grown so tired of a difficult situation that you began to wonder whether our Heavenly Father had forgotten you? Waiting for treatment, grieving a loss, or watching a loved one struggle can wear down more than our energy. It can affect the way we think about His love. We may keep showing up while quietly wondering whether He is still near.

Jesus understands the danger His disciples will face. In verse 13, He wants them filled with His joy. They have heard His words and His promises about returning to the Father. That relationship gives them reason for joy even as the world opposes them. Their mission is still in that world, so Jesus asks the Father to keep them safe from the evil one while they remain there.

Jesus' prayer reaches into the trouble that can draw His people away from the Father. Satan would have them distrust the One who loves them. Jesus asks for their protection. We can ask our Heavenly Father for relief too. His answer may be yes, no, or not yet, according to His will. While we wait, we can depend on His care and continue following Jesus. The length of the struggle does not tell us how much the Father loves us.

## Going Deeper

Protection from the evil one does not promise a life without suffering. It guards the disciples as they carry Jesus' message in a world that resists it. When we care for someone in pain, we can attend to that person's faith as well as practical needs. Listening patiently may help a worn-down friend speak honestly about feeling abandoned. Pastor Rob connected those needs in the message:

## Quote from Sunday’s Message

*You can also pray for the Father to guard that person's faith when they fear they've been abandoned. Your presence can help them recognize His love.*

## Reflect

1. What has prolonged trouble made it harder for you to believe about our Heavenly Father's care?

2. Who could you listen to today with enough patience for them to tell you how they are really doing?

## Today’s Practice

Check in with someone facing an ongoing difficulty. Ask how the waiting is affecting them, and listen without rushing to explain or fix it.

## Closing Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, guard my faith when trouble wears me down. Help me recognize Your care and offer patient presence to someone who feels alone. Amen.

# Day 4  Shaped by Truth for the People Beside Us

## Theme

The Father's truth shapes how we live and care as Jesus sends us into the world.

## Scripture

John 17:17–19

## Devotional

Have you ever heard yourself giving the same advice again because you were afraid someone would make the wrong choice? Concern can make us impatient. We may be trying so hard to help that we stop hearing the person in front of us. We need our Heavenly Father to shape our response as much as we need Him to work in the situation.

Jesus asks the Father to make His disciples holy by truth. To be holy is to be set apart for the Father's purposes. He has given these men the Father's word, and He is sending them into the world. That word will guide their choices as they face pressure to compromise what Jesus taught them. Their witness will involve both the message they speak and the lives they live.

As Jesus' disciples, we need that same truth to guide us. Love does not give us authority to control another person's response. The Father's word teaches us to speak honestly, practice patience, and remain faithful when someone does not take our advice. We can ask what our own response reveals about our trust in the Father. Then our care can help another person recognize Jesus rather than simply feel our frustration.

## Going Deeper

In verse 19, Jesus gives Himself as a holy sacrifice for His people. His death and resurrection make reconciliation with the Father possible. We are sent because of what Jesus has done for us. Our kindness cannot save another person, but our care and our words can point to the Savior who does. In Sunday's message, Pastor Rob connected the disciples' mission to Jesus' unique saving work:

## Quote from Sunday’s Message

*Jesus alone reconciles people to the Father through His death and resurrection. The disciples will represent Him through their love and the message they carry.*

## Reflect

1. When concern turns into impatience, what tends to happen to your words or your willingness to listen?

2. What would a truthful, gentle response look like in one conversation you expect to have today?

## Today’s Practice

Before one difficult conversation, write a single sentence that expresses the truth you need to say with patience and respect. Let that guide how you speak and listen.

## Closing Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, let Your truth shape my words and choices. Thank You for the saving work of Jesus, and help my care point people toward Him. Amen.

# Day 5  Sharing in the Care Jesus Gives

## Theme

Jesus' continuing care unites His people and makes the Father's love visible through them.

## Scripture

John 17:20–26; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 7:25

## Devotional

Have you ever felt relieved when someone said, ‘You do not have to handle this by yourself’? A caregiver may need a few hours of rest. A worried parent may need someone who will keep listening. Receiving help can be difficult, especially when we are used to being the person who provides it. Yet our life together as Jesus' people includes both giving and receiving care.

In verse 20, Jesus includes everyone who will believe through the disciples' message. His prayer reaches us. He asks that His people be united in their shared life with the Father and the Son, so the world will recognize that the Father sent Jesus and loves His people. Jesus wants His followers with Him to see His glory, and He promises to keep revealing the Father. His return to the Father will not end His love for them.

That continuing care sustains us today. The Father protects His people, the risen Son intercedes for them, and the Holy Spirit lives in them. This is the triune God's shared care. We receive it as disciples, then participate in it through our presence, prayers, and practical help. When we admit a need or respond to one together, the unity Jesus prayed for becomes visible. Our neighbors can encounter that love too.

## Going Deeper

Jesus' bodily departure and His promise to remain with His disciples belong together. Through the Spirit, His presence continues; at the Father's right hand, His intercession continues. The Father has not taken over because the Son has stopped caring. Our limits can lead us to depend on this shared care while remaining available to serve those around us. Pastor Rob described our place in it:

## Quote from Sunday’s Message

*We stay beside [those we serve] and do what we can. Our presence, prayers, and practical help can be part of the triune God's care for them.*

## Reflect

1. Where might you need to receive care from another believer instead of continuing alone?

2. What need could you help our church respond to together so someone experiences the Father's love?

## Today’s Practice

Contact one person in the church to arrange practical care for someone this week. If you need care yourself, tell that believer what help you need and allow them to come alongside you.

## Closing Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank You for the continuing care of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Unite us in love and help our life together show the people around us the care we have received through Jesus. Amen.