

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

THE GLORY
OF JESUS AND
OUR GOOD

Open it

1. If someone were going to make a movie about your life, who would you want to be cast to play you?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 17:1–5.

2. What does Jesus ask the Father to do?
3. What authority did the Father give to Jesus?
4. What is eternal life?
5. What does Jesus tell the Father He has accomplished?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Why Should I Pray to a Sovereign God?

Read John 17:1.

What is something that you have recently asked your parents for? Why did you ask them? Why didn't you ask your friend or a teacher or one of your group leaders?

Have you ever felt like there isn't really a need to pray to God because a) He already knows what you're going to pray about so why bother? b) He's going to do what He's going to do anyway, so what's the point? or c) How can He really help in this situation?

I've been there. I bet you have too. We wonder sometimes, "What's the point in praying to a sovereign God?"

The Bible teaches that God is sovereign over all things and people— He is in control and authority over everything and is always with His people.¹ Yet, the Bible never makes a case that because God is sovereign that we have no need to pray to Him. As a matter of fact, the opposite is true. Because God is sovereign is all the more reason to pray to Him.

Think back to that first question: Why did you ask your parents?

My guess is you asked your parents in that case because you knew that they were the ones who were "sovereign" in that situation. In other words, they were the ones who you had access to at that moment who held the *authority* and *ability* to meet your request. So it made sense to ask them!

The same is true with God's sovereignty. Because He is sovereign, that means you always have access to Him and He holds the authority and ability over all people and things to meet your requests. That's why Jesus would pray to the Father knowing that the hour had come, that the Father would glorify Him so that He could glorify the Father— because the Father had the authority and ability to glorify the Son so that the Son could glorify the Father.

We pray to God because He is sovereign. If He weren't, it wouldn't make any sense to pray at all.

6. How would a better knowledge of who God is influence how you pray?

7. How does your understanding of the sovereignty of God influence how you pray today?

¹ To learn more, read "The Sovereignty of God" found at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-sovereignty-of-god/>

Day 3 — Today's Theme: What is Eternal Life?

Read John 17:2–3.

What pops into your mind when you think of eternal life? When I was a kid, the Audio Adrenaline song “Big House” defined what I thought about eternal life. I pictured eternity in heaven involving all the sports I could imagine, great big meals, mansions— basically just this blissful life that fulfilled all my wishes. If I could dream it up, it would be there.

Is that eternal life? To have an eternity that is oriented around yourself? Would that even make sense? That we would live a whole life “paying our time” serving and loving God so that He would spend an eternity serving us? Why would it be that our life on earth ought to be about God so that our life in heaven would be about us? That doesn't add up.

So, what then? Is eternal life merely existing for all eternity? Or is there something more to eternal life? What if I told you that eternal life is more than receiving a “get out of hell free” card? Check it out...

“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” ~ Jesus

If what Jesus said is true, then eternal LIFE is knowing God. But how? Is there an “eternal life masterclass” out there that teaches you all the facts you need to know to qualify as “knowing God” so that you can live forever?

There is one way to know God— Jesus. God has revealed Himself to us in Jesus so that to know Jesus is to know God and to know God is to know Jesus. They are one and the same.

But eternal life is not just everlasting life. Eternal life is a relationship with the everlasting God. Eternal life is forever delighting in the manifold glories of God. Eternal life is seeing God and rejoicing forever in His presence. Eternal life is living how we're created to live—in fellowship with our Creator.²

8. How does this understanding of eternal life change how you view salvation and heaven? Does it change how you would share the gospel with someone?

9. What does it mean to know God? What do you think Jesus means when He says that in John 17:3?

10. What do you know about the Father because of Jesus?

² Carter, Matt; Wredberg, Josh. Exalting Jesus in John (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 361). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

11. On a scale of 1–5 (1=weak, 5=strong), how would you describe your personal relationship with God? What things influence you to describe it that way?

Day 4 — Today's Theme: What Does It Mean to Glorify God?

Read John 17:4–5.

What does it mean to glorify God? Does it add glory to God? If you don't glorify God, does it rob Him of His glory? How can we glorify God?

When we talk about God's being glorified (the verb), we mean the appropriate response to His goodness displayed. So the glory of God (noun) is His goodness displayed, and glorifying God (verb) is His goodness celebrated. God is glorious regardless of whether anyone understands who he is, but we glorify God by seeing His goodness and worshiping Him for it.

Here, when Jesus prays to be glorified, it means His goodness must be seen and celebrated. For God to answer this request means the greatness of Jesus will need to be understood and acknowledged.

The moment Jesus most reveals the goodness of God is on the cross. Hanging there, suspended between earth and sky, Jesus glorifies God in a way the world has never seen. Never has the holy justice of God and the holy love of God been displayed so powerfully together. We cannot adequately understand how glorious God is without the cross. There we see His holiness and condescension, His wrath and love, and His justice and mercy. All are perfectly displayed through the death of His Son. And in that hour the request of Jesus is answered. In the cross the glorious wrath and love of God are revealed. The Father glorifies the Son, and the Son reveals the unparalleled goodness of the Father to us.³

12. How can we see the glory of God on display today?

13. What should it look like for you personally to glorify ("the appropriate response to His goodness displayed") God?

³ Carter, Matt; Wredberg, Josh. Exalting Jesus in John (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 360–361). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

This study was written by Pastor Jeremy Anderson. www.villagebible.church/students.