

John 17:13-23 (New International Version, ©2011)

¹³ “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Short Start-Up Bible Study: John 17:13-23

For LIFE Communities (week of 9/4/11)

Community Builder Questions: Use several to help people catch up, reconnect, and participate. Select several or invent your own. Wise questions are “self-descriptive questions,” which are geared to describing experiences, insights, and interests. (Best to avoid “self-disclosure questions,” which require more internal processing and revealing – which best happens when relationships/fellowship are strong, safe, and in place.)

- What is one of your favorite memories of the summer?
- What “picture in your mind” from the last several months will encourage you in the upcoming months?
- What was a special experience you had with someone this summer? (i.e., hike, canoe ride, vacation, outing)
- Any experience of God’s presence or leading that you are willing to share
- What are you looking forward to this fall?
- What are you looking forward to about our LC experience?

Short (20 min) Bible study: To provide vision for your LIFE Community this upcoming year.

Read aloud: John 17: 13-23

- a. What are some of the things for which Jesus is praying?
- b. Which ones particularly pertain to our experiences as a LIFE Community?
- c. Is there one that you really need?
- d. What difference does it make to you/us knowing that Jesus has prayed this for his disciples?
- e. Pray together that some of these insights would be realities (experiences/hallmarks) of our LC this year.