

## 2nd Week of March

### A Prayer for Unity

■ **Text:** John 17:21~23 (March 3)

■ **Bottom line:** Just as Jesus was united in love with God, we must be united in love.

#### ☰ 1. Prayer

Thank you, God, for always taking care of us and protecting us with your eyes like flames. At this time, let us know the God of love and know Jesus deeply whom God has sent .

#### ☰ 2. Praise

(Worship and praise) My Appearance, My Possession

#### ☰ 3. The Word

Read John 17:21~23 together (read the verse 3 times).

\* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

##### <ESV>

<sup>21</sup>that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

##### <Korean Bible>

<sup>21</sup>that they may all be one; just as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup>The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one; <sup>23</sup>I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and You loved them, just as You loved Me.

## Understanding Text

Jesus also prayed for all who would believe in Him. Jesus wanted them to be united in love. The best example of oneness is the oneness of the triune God, in which the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father. When believers become one, the world will know God's love.

### Understanding the text for leaders

Jesus' high priestly prayer extends from praying for Jesus himself to praying for his disciples, and then to praying for all who will believe through them. The "they" (verse 21) referred to in the text refers not only to Jesus' disciples, but also to all those who will hear the gospel through the disciples and believe in Jesus. In other words, it is the church. Jesus wanted the community of believers in Him to be united in God's love. Jesus showed His disciples the love of God, and He said that the community that realized and believed in that love should be united by God's love. Believers who believe that they are loved by God through Jesus will naturally form a community united by love. And when we see how they love each other, we know the love of God in the world. Christians have a mission to unite in love and show God's love to the world.

## 4. Sharing

1) What did Jesus, who became one with God the Father and with His disciples, want His disciples? (verses 21~23)

### Upper Grades

What can unite those who believe in Jesus? (verse 23).

### Lower Grades

How can believers in Jesus be united? (verse 23).

### Question Guide

Focusing on the word 'one', read verses 21~23 again. As you describe the intimate relationship between God the Father and Jesus (v. 21), talk about the oneness of the triune God. Let them know that it extends to the unity of Jesus and His disciples, and even to the unity of Christians who believe in Jesus.

### Comments for Leaders

Jesus' prayer is about oneness over and over again. It is the unity of the triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), the unity of Jesus and His disciples, and the unity of believers. They're interconnected. Jesus, who was united with God in love, came to this earth and showed us the reality of perfect love. To believe in and receive Jesus is to become one with Jesus, and to become one with Jesus is to become one with the triune God. Jesus wanted the people who would believe in Him to be able to do the same in God's love. If the disciples, who are connected to God's love, love one another and become one, the world will know God's love through them. This is also the mission of the Church.

2) Who is it hard for me to love? Pray that you will love him with God's love.

### Upper Grades

Who is it hard for me to love? What prevents you from loving? Pray that you will be able to love that person.

### Lower Grades

Say "I love you" to your family and the people you meet at least five times a day.

### □ Question Guide

Think of someone around you who is difficult to love, and share why it is hard for you to love. Take time to think about how God wants you to treat that person, and pray for the strength to love them with His love.

### □ Comments for Leaders

Jesus prayed for us to be united in love because it is not easy to be united in love. Even though we have received God's love, it is always difficult and difficult to love others. I want you to remember that the power to love someone comes from God. Pray to God to give you the strength to love the person by name of someone you can't love. If you rely on God's love, He will give you the strength to love.

## ☰ 5. Be grateful

Be grateful for the grace to know God's love through Jesus and to share that love.

## ☰ 6. Prayer

Thank you, God, for always pouring out your love on us despite our shortcomings. As those who have received irreparable love, let us strive to accept and love others, and preach Jesus through our sincere words and deeds.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer.

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