Corps Resources
for small groups

FOUNDATIONS IN PRAYER

SESSION FOUR JESUS' PRAYER FOR BELIEVERS

The book of Hebrews depicts Jesus sitting at the right-hand of God interceding to God as our High Priest. This is also the significance of the ascension. It points to the fact that Jesus is now with God, our "man on the inside". He is like us, knows our weaknesses and our frailties. This can be a great comfort in times of trouble. Sometimes we don't know what to pray, sometimes we feel so alone and so abandoned by other people. To know that Jesus is right there with the Father, praying specifically for our needs can be very consoling.

Hebrews specifically says that through the prayers of Jesus for us, we will be helped in our times of temptation (2:18); that we will be given grace and mercy in our time of need (4:16); and that we will be saved completely (7:25). Our salvation is assured because Jesus is there seated beside God continuing to uphold us. What else is Jesus' prayer for believers?

{notes}

QUESTIONS

Read: John 17

1. What is Jesus' first concern in this prayer? (verses 1-5) What is the link between our receiving eternal life and God's glory? What does this tell us about thanking God for our salvation as part of our prayer?
2. What is Jesus' concern for the disciples in verses 9-12? What does he ask of the Father for the disciples since he is now going to return to the Father?
3. What is the significance of Jesus praying not that his disciples would be taken out of the world, but rather that the Father would protect them in the world? (verses 14-18) What is the link between remaining in the world and being sent out into the world? How should this inform our prayers?
4. Why do you think Jesus is concerned that all believers (past, present and future) should be one? What does Jesus compare the unity of the believers to? What will be the outcome when the world sees the church united as one? (verses 20-23)
5. What specific issues do we need to pray about in order to bring about unity within the body of Christ? What obstacles stand in the way of unity?
6. What does this passage teach about prayer that is useful for mission?