

## Read

Read John 17.

## Discuss

- When was the first time you voted (if you have voted before)? How did you feel?
- Read John 17:1–23. What stands out to you? What questions do you have about the text?
- Why is unity important? Jesus prays that his followers may be one as he and the Father are one (John 17:11, 22). How does unity of the church reflect unity between Father and Son, and why is this significant? How does the unity of Christ-followers show the world that Jesus was sent by the Father (John 17:21, 23)?
- Jesus prays not only for his disciples, but also for “those who will believe” (John 17:20). How do you feel knowing that you were included in Jesus’ prayer?
- What does it mean to have unity without uniformity? How can we “rock the boat” in a loving way? How can we maintain unity when we believe that fellow Christ-followers hold views that are potentially dangerous or destructive?
- Though radically different from one another, the disciples were united because their primary allegiance was to Christ and the Kingdom of God. What other “kingdoms” or identities influence your own attitudes and actions? How can we keep God’s Kingdom first and foremost in our lives?
- Which of Matt's practical steps (unity filter, admit you don't know everything, compassion for those who grieve the election results, love across the aisle) resonates with you? Which is hardest for you? How can you put these steps into practice this week?

## Pray

Read Ephesians 4:2–6 and Colossians 3:12–15. As a group, spend some time in prayer, confessing our lack of these attributes and inviting God to grow compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love in our hearts and lives. Pray that we would be unified as Christ-followers seeking after the Kingdom of God.

## Next Steps

1. On November 3, spend some time in prayer. Here are some prompts:
  - *Pray that the election process proceeds smoothly*
  - *Pray for God’s peace and wisdom over our nation*
  - *Pray for the new officials who will be elected*
  - *Pray for the unity of Christ-followers*

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2. Think about someone you know who votes differently than you do. After the election, whether their chosen party has won or lost, check in with them to see how they're doing.