

## **September 16**

### John 17:1-5

In these verses, we read the first part of the lengthy prayer Jesus prayed the night before he died. In this first part, Jesus prayed for himself.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Jesus says, essentially, that he did what God had sent him here to do. Knowing that it could be one thing, or several, what do you believe God has in mind for *you* to do?

#### *Prayer:*

Father God, I know that you have a purpose for my life. Help me to understand what that purpose is, and then please help me to carry it out in a way that pleases you. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

## **September 17**

### John 17:6-19

This is the second part of Jesus' lengthy prayer the night before he died on the cross. In these verses, he prayed for his disciples.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Jesus prayed that his disciples would not be taken out of the world, but that God would protect them. In other words, he prayed that God would protect them as they faced challenges because of their faith. Has there ever been a time when you felt challenged by others because of your faith in Jesus?

#### *Prayer:*

Loving God, I live in a world where many people deny you and ridicule those who place their trust in you through Jesus Christ. I pray that I will always have the courage to stand up for you, even in the face of opposition. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **September 18**

### John 17:20-26

In these verses, Jesus concludes his prayer by praying for those who would believe in him in the future – including us.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Jesus prayed that those who believe in him, “may be one as we are one.” He went further and prayed that his followers will be “brought to complete unity.” What can *you* do to help bring about unity among followers of Jesus?

#### *Prayer:*

Creator God, I pray for all those who believe in Jesus Christ as savior of the world. I pray for those with whom I may disagree about something. Help us to look past our disagreement, and to be together, in love, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **September 19**

### Matthew 26:36-46

This passage tells of Jesus going to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray just before he was betrayed.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Many people believe that this is where the battle was won. Jesus asked that God find another way (“let this cup pass from me”), but then he made the decision to submit to the will of God, whatever it might be. He could have run, but he did not. What does it mean to you to know that Jesus freely chose to submit to the will of God, even if it meant suffering and death?

#### *Prayer:*

Forgiving God, it is difficult for me to grasp the love of Jesus – love so great that he would suffer and die for the sin of the world. I thank you that Jesus gave his life for my sin. I pray that my life is always an expression of gratitude for that incredible gift. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

## **September 20**

### Matthew 26:47-56

These verses tell of the betrayal of Jesus.

#### *Question to Consider:*

The passage ends by telling us that his disciples deserted him and fled. Think of a time when you deserted Jesus and fled, when you turned your back on him and chose sin. What were the circumstances?

#### *Prayer:*

Gracious God, it is easy for me to condemn the disciples for deserting Jesus and fleeing, and yet I know that I all too often do the same thing. Instead of following Him, I turn the other way and choose sin. Please forgive me, and when I am tempted to condemn the sin of another, please help me to see my own sin more clearly. I, too, need your grace and forgiveness. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.