



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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John 17:1-8 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#)

are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Why did Jesus come into the world?

In John 3:16, Jesus told us why He came into the world, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” He came because God the Father gave God the Son to the world to save from perishing and give eternal life to all who would believe in Him. Jesus will give additional reasons or more detailed reasons about what this means in John 17:1-26.

2. Why did Jesus want the Father to glorify the Son?

He wanted the Father to glorify Him so He could glorify the Father. As disciples of Jesus, we want to glorify the Father and the Son.

3. Why did the Father give Jesus authority over all people?

The Father gave Jesus Christ authority over all people to give eternal life to all the people the Father gave Him. Having authority over all people, Jesus gave (and gives) eternal life to those the Father has given (and gives) Him. When someone receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, as did Jesus' first disciples, they know that they have been given eternal life and the Father has given them to Jesus.

4. What is eternal life?

In John 17:3, Jesus defined eternal life: "And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." Eternal life involves knowing both the Father and the Son, and it involves more than just knowing facts about them from the Bible. Eternal life involves knowing the Father and the Son personally, prayerfully, and Biblically. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the only true God as the Bible reveals them with the help of the Holy Spirit.

5. How did Jesus glorify the Father? How can we, if we are His disciples, glorify the Father and Jesus?

Jesus glorified the Father by finishing the work that the Father gave Him to do, and in John 17:1-8, that included making the name of the Father known and by giving His disciples the words that the Father gave Him to give to them. They received the words of Jesus and learned that in truth Jesus came from the Father, and the Father sent Him. As disciples of Jesus, we can glorify the Father and the Son by finishing the work that the Father and the Son have given us. In ways given to us by the Father and the Son, we can help make the Father and the Son known as the Bible teaches and as the Holy Spirit helps us study and teach others the Word of God written.

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