

## A COMMUNITY TO REPRESENT GOD

### John 17:6-11 (NIV)

6 “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

### John 17:6-11 (NLT)

6 “I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

7 Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you,

8 for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.

9 “My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you.

10 All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory.

11 Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are.

Last week we looked at the first 5 verses of this great prayer. In those verses he prayed about his own mission and his relations with the Father. In v. 6 the prayer changes. Notice the pronouns: *they* and *them* dominate the paragraph. He is praying for his disciples. He is praying for the church. He is praying for the 11, but also as will say in v. 20, he is praying for those who will believe through their word, meaning us. And so the rest of the prayer is about the church.

### *Questions to Ponder and Discuss*

1. After reading the paragraph few times, what observations can you make about the church?
2. What do you think Jesus means when he says, “*I have revealed you to those whom you gave me ...?*”
3. Jesus says in v. 9: *I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.* This certainly can’t mean that Jesus doesn’t care about the world. What is Jesus saying here?
4. If you were listening while Jesus prayed the same prayer for you personally, how would you feel toward him? Toward the Father? About your responsibility in the world?