



**Week 6**  
29 May - 4 June 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY  
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

# EASTER to TRINITY SUNDAY

## CONTENT:

**Weekly** Sunday Sermon Bible readings, worship song, reflection, small group questions and family time  
**Daily** Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Sunday 29 May</b>	<b>Jesus prays for all believers</b>
Week 7	Sunday 5 June	Jesus the way to the Father
Week 8	Sunday 12 June	The disciples' grief will turn to joy

## Week 6: 29 MAY

Easter Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Seventh Sunday of Easter	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26



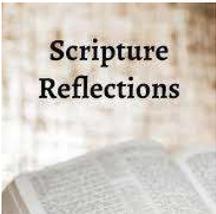
**Praise and Worship:** <https://youtu.be/ZoyLcHxjneQ>  
Kenny Rodgers – For the love of God.



### John 17:20-26

#### Jesus prays for all believers

*<sup>20</sup> 'My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> 'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. <sup>25</sup> 'Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.'*



## WRITTEN BY: TONY MATTHEE

In the Peanuts cartoon Lucy demanded that Linus change TV channels, threatening him with her fist if he didn't. Linus asks, "What makes you think that you can walk right in here and take over?" Lucy replies, "These five fingers. Individually they're nothing, but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold." Linus asks, "Which channel do you want?" Turning away, he looks at his fingers and says, "Why can't you guys get organized like that?"

The central theme of this part of the Lord's prayer is unity. Perhaps we can start by considering what an absence of unity would mean. Dis-unity leads to dysfunction. Dysfunction uncorrected leads to destruction. Jesus said in Mark 3: 24-25 "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." When God's people fight and quarrel with each other and treat one another with disdain and animosity Satan must rub his hands together with glee -- mission accomplished, divide and conquer!

For God's Kingdom to flourish and grow, God's people need to be united. Is it any wonder then that when Jesus prays for us, his Church, his main focus is on unity! United we stand, divided we fall. Does this mean that there should be no denominations, just one body – The Church? While that would be ideal, we as human beings are so different and worship God differently. But we can all have the same purpose "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matt. 28: 19. There is so much more that unites us than divides us as Christians. Can we not rather embrace each other and put aside our differences for the greater good of serving our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ so we as His followers can "enjoy the favour of all the people" (Acts 2: 47) as the very early church did.

It is interesting that Paul also joins Jesus in this call for unity. In 1 Cor 1: 10 he says, "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought." In Eph. 4: 3 he says, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." In Romans 11 we find Paul trying to create unity by referring to branches that were cut off so that new branches could be grafted in, all drawing sustenance from the same root.

Jesus also refers to the unity that exists between God the Father and God the Son. He prays that "the love you have for me may be in them". Now "God is Love" (1 John 4: 8) and therefore the love that God is, resides in Jesus and Jesus prays that that love may reside in us as well. This is really, truly, significant and we need to pause for this to sink in. Who can know or comprehend the love of God? It is agape love, a self-sacrificing love, a love of choice not influenced by emotions or feelings. This is the love that Jesus prays will be in us! Imagine that love present in a united Church. "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13: 35)



### Small Group Questions:

1. What aspect of the reading resonated or stood out for you? Why?
2. Pride can hinder unity. Discuss this try to identify other things that hinder unity. There are many.
3. Love can promote unity and build up the body of Christ. Discuss. There are also other things that can build up unity; try to identify some and discuss.
4. What are your thoughts about Church unity? Are denominations a good or bad thing?
5. Discuss the Love of God as you understand it, keeping in mind that this is what Jesus prays would be in us.



### Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:

**MONDAY, May 30, 2022:** [Psalm 29](#); [Exodus 40:16-38](#); [Acts 16:35-40](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace." Ps. 29: 11

**PRAYER:** Gracious Lord, give us this strength in our daily lives that we may be victorious in our strife with adversity. **Amen.**

**TUESDAY, May 31, 2022:** [Psalm 29](#); [2 Chronicles 5:2-14](#); [Acts 26:19-29](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "He is good; his love endures forever." 2Chr. 5: 13

**PRAYER:** O Lord, daily we give you thanks and praise for your love which endures forever. **Amen.**

**WEDNESDAY, June 1, 2022:** [Psalm 29](#); [Ezekiel 3:12-21](#); [Luke 9:18-27](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory." Luke 9: 26

**PRAYER:** Almighty God, give me strength and confidence to live for you without shame or embarrassment. **Amen.**

**THURSDAY, June 2, 2022:** [Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#); [Isaiah 32:11-17](#); [Galatians 5:16-25](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever." Isa. 32: 17

**PRAYER:** Lord help me to live the kind of life that is pleasing to you every day. **Amen.**

**FRIDAY, June 3, 2022:** [Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#); [Isaiah 44:1-4](#); [Galatians 6:7-10](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers." Gal. 6: 10

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, open our eyes and our hearts to those around us that are in need, and help us to give generously of our time, our talents and our treasure. **Amen.**

**SATURDAY, June 4, 2022:** [Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#); [2 Kings 2:1-15a](#); [Luke 1:5-17](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." Psa. 104: 33

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, even though I may not be able to sing, I will make a joyful noise to you as long as I live. Please accept my humble praise and thanks. **Amen.**



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

**BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR**

[jennyb@bmc.org.za](mailto:jennyb@bmc.org.za)

**Sunday 29 May**

**Pray daily:** Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

**Scripture Reading:** [John 17:20-26](#)

**Activity/Family Moment:**

In this reading Jesus prays for the disciples, and for all who believe. He prays for strength, knowing that it can be tough to live in love all the time.

Start with some fun activities that relate to the topic of prayer, as well as the idea of being a Christian...

- On Earth and in Heaven... Jesus prayed for people who would be left on Earth, after His departure into Heaven. This includes us, of course. Think about some features of planet Earth. Look at some facts about geology or seasons and look at pictures of Earth from outer space.
- As Christians, we hope to live in unity with one another, and we desire all people to come to know Jesus. what does unity mean? Look at some facts about people in other countries. Search for information about missionaries and

people who need to hear the Gospel. Pick a country that you can pray for, asking God to make ways for people to be reached. Perhaps you can learn a few phrases in another language, too!

- Sometimes there are things that we have to wait for in life, and we don't receive everything we might want right away and sometimes we don't ever receive it. Discuss things that require patience and waiting, but which are worth the wait.
- In the lesson, Jesus mentions how Christians are in the world, but in a way, we are separate from it, too. That is, we don't do everything that others might do. To illustrate how we can be this way, watch what happens when you pour oil on top of water. They are in the same glass, but they aren't completely blended together. We can be in the same area as others, but we don't have to adopt all the same behaviours.

You can use the craft below!

In this Gospel passage, we will look at that prayer, and consider what it means to be children of God.

Ask: How do you pray? What kinds of things do you say, and when do you pray? Do you like it when other people pray for you?

### **Craft: "Living Water Lava Lamp"**

You will need:

- Plastic water bottle
- Cooking Oil
- Stickers (optional)
- Glitter or food colouring (optional)
- Permanent marker (optional)

Procedure:

1. Fill the water bottle about a third of the way with water
2. Carefully pour oil into the remainder of the bottle, until almost full.
3. If desired, add a few drops of food colouring and/or glitter for extra decoration.
4. For extra "living water" fun, write 'living water' on the bottle with permanent marker
5. Tightly screw the cap onto the bottle (hot glue may be helpful). Decorate the outside with stickers, if you like, and a verse caption. Shake around (carefully) to watch the "living water" move and separate!