

# WORSHIP HELPS

## GUARDIAN CARE

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Jesus says in John 17: 24 – 26,

*“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.*

*“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 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.”*

### OPENING PRAYER

Come, Lord, and be one with us. We invite you to open our hearts to receive your love.

Come now, Lord, and pour your love into our lives once again.

Come, Lord, and be one with us. We invite you to open our eyes to see your glory.

Come now, Lord, for we are waiting to see your face.

Come, Lord, and be one with us. We invite you to open our minds to understand your grace.

Come now, Lord, for we want to experience all the blessings you want to give us.

Come, Lord, and be one with us.

Come now, Lord. We are waiting and watching and listening. We are ready to encounter your glory and seek your will for our lives.

Come, Lord, and keep us alert to your calling.

Come now, Lord. We are ready to honour you with our very being. Amen.

### INTRODUCTION

No doubt, we've all left items behind on the train or a bus (or even the Army hall!). There is nothing worse than realising that your mobile phone or wallet is still on your seat long after you've left it. They say that you can often tell what mattered most to a person by what they leave behind when they depart this world.

What did Jesus leave behind?

- No wife or child
- No house
- No clothes
- No money
- No business
- No writings
- No pictures
- No buildings

The only things he left behind were his message and the people who believed his message. He left his teaching and the people he taught. These were Jesus' priorities and these two things that he left behind would change the world.

The disciples could have easily felt left behind, abandoned following Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus' post resurrection appearances would remind them that they had not been left behind, that the care he showed for them before, he now demonstrated post resurrection. They in turn were not to leave him behind. He prayed for them in the last days before his death and now he wanted those prayers to become reality.

## **READ JOHN 17**

- From His prayer recorded in John 17, what do we learn was Jesus' chief ambition or purpose? How did He accomplish this? In what ways do you live that people will see the glory of God in you? How would you describe the role you're currently playing in God's mission? What is encouraging and discouraging along the way?
- Identify the things that Jesus asks of the Father in John 17 during His prayer.
- Why do you think Jesus made this prayer to the Father? What do you think it would have felt like to overhear Jesus pray? What significance do these prayers have for you as a believer today?
- Read Matthew 6: 9-13. What similarities do you find between the Lord's Prayer and the prayer that Jesus makes here in John 17?
- What does it mean to be "In the world but not of the world"?
- Why do Jesus' disciples need protection? What struggles do we face in our lives that require protection from God?
- The old chorus reminds us that there's joy in following Jesus every day and all the way! How would you explain this to a non-believer? Why do you think it is important to have the joy of the Lord within us? And is it really possible?
- What does it mean for a person to be "sanctified" or "to be made holy"?
- Why is the unity of Christians so important? When the church is divided, what message does that send to the world? Make a list of things that divide Christians and the church today.

Write a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to Jesus in response to His prayer of intercession for you.

Father, thou art the God of love. When we look at the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ we see that love poured out for us. What remarkable love that is, love that will not let us go, love that pursues us despite our rebuffs, love that never gives up, relentless in its pursuit until we yield, broken, melted by thy love. Lord, this is the nature and character of the love that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us. It is this remarkable thing that the world waits to see in Christian people. It is the absence of this, Father, that makes them turn away from our doors, uninterested, disappointed. Lord, teach us then to love one another. Whatever this may mean in terms of our personal circumstances, teach us, Father, to love one another. We pray in Christ's name, Amen.

## INTECESSORY PRAYERS

Today, in the UK Territory is Candidates Sunday. An introduction to this day can be found at: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/candidatessunday2020>

In our prayers for this day, use the following prayer pointers to help you.

- Give thanks for all officers and territorial envoys serving this territory today. Pray for encouragement, good health, times of personal spiritual renewal and courage to be bold in mission.
- Ask God to place on your heart people you know who may need to respond to the call to officership and territorial envoyship. Pray for them to be alert to God's voice and obedient to respond.
- Remember all applicants for officership and territorial envoyship, with their hopes and dreams. Each year there are Assessment Conferences where those who have applied for officership / territorial envoyship spend time sharing their calling. Pray God's guidance and blessing on the applicants and the assessment team.
- Pray that people may pay attention to what God is calling them to do and to be, beyond the everyday business of life. Pray for hearts that are committed to God's ways and purposes, not the ways of the world.
- Pray for yourself and the part you play in the building of the Kingdom of God, whatever age you are.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Loving Father God, we want to get our Christian living and our discipleship in perspective. We recognise your desire for us to strive for a likeness of Jesus your Son and we have heard the call to holy living.*

*Yet we would confess our failings and seek your forgiveness, for we have often neglected to emulate Jesus. Thank you for loving us despite our failings.*

*We are sorry for not being alert to your Spirit when you have sought to show us your glory. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, our light in the darkness, who leads us to where the spiritual action is taking place and uses us to shine light for others to see the way forward.*

*How wonderful it is, Father, that you have freely given us new life with Christ! Your salvation and love have overwhelmed us and humbled us. As we now live as children of your Kingdom, we want to share in this adventure of mission and evangelism, of service and obedience, of sharing and compassion.*

*Keep us faithful, keep us joyful, keep us alert to your Spirit's voice and obedient to respond. Involve us in the action; encourage us to be bolder and fearless, so that we may share in the glories of life in Christ. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.*

## SONG SUGGESTIONS

- Guardian of My Soul  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9R8xUxJQudA>
- Hear the call of the Kingdom  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjRmIEhkHnw>
- Before the throne of God above (SASB 243)
- Be thou my vision (SASB 573)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihJAJA4ibEs>
- Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2tKVqZZiI4>