

# before I go

Session 2:  
Unity begins with  
you

WHEN JESUS  
INVITES US TO DO  
THE IMPOSSIBLE.

Do this in  
remembrance  
of me.

It is finished.

Take this  
Cup of suffering

Take care  
of my  
sheep.



# **WE'RE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE NOTHING LIKE US, IN OUR..**

- **Schools**
- **Social Media Feeds**
- **Neighborhoods**
- **Church**
- **Sports Teams**
- **Family**

**These people have different thoughts, perspectives and ideas about the way things should be done & the way life should be lived.**

**Our world feels more divided then ever!**

# IN A POLARIZED WORLD, UNITY CAN FEEL IMPOSSIBLE. IS UNITY EVEN POSSIBLE?

## Previously

Jesus used the tradition of Passover to help His followers remember

After finishing the 'Last Supper', Jesus spent time praying in Gethsemane



Think about it for a minute: If you could pray for anything right now, what would it be?

But what if it was your final prayer: If you had to pray for one thing before you go, what would it be?

# IN HIS LAST MOMENTS JESUS PRAYED...

**“I AM PRAYING NOT ONLY FOR THESE DISCIPLES BUT ALSO FOR ALL WHO WILL EVER BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR MESSAGE.”**

In His last moments, Jesus prayed for all who would follow Him personally

**JOHN 17:20 NLT,  
(emphasis added)**

# IN HIS LAST MOMENTS JESUS PRAYED...

**“I AM PRAYING NOT ONLY FOR THESE DISCIPLES BUT ALSO FOR ALL WHO WILL EVER BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR MESSAGE. I PRAY THAT THEY WILL ALL BE ONE, JUST AS YOU AND I ARE ONE – AS YOU ARE IN ME, FATHER, AND I AM IN YOU. AND MAY THEY BE IN US SO THAT THE WORLD WILL BELIEVE YOU SENT ME. I HAVE GIVEN THEM THE GLORY YOU GAVE ME, SO THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ARE ONE. I AM IN THEM AND YOU ARE IN ME. MAY THEY EXPERIENCE SUCH PERFECT UNITY THAT THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT YOU SENT ME AND THAT YOU LOVE THEM AS MUCH AS YOU LOVE ME.”**

**In His final prayer, He  
prayed for us to be ONE,  
to be unified**

**JOHN 17:20-23 NLT,  
(emphasis added)**

# BEING UNITED MEANS TO BE FOR EACH OTHER

To work with, to encourage, to fight for and to pray for each other

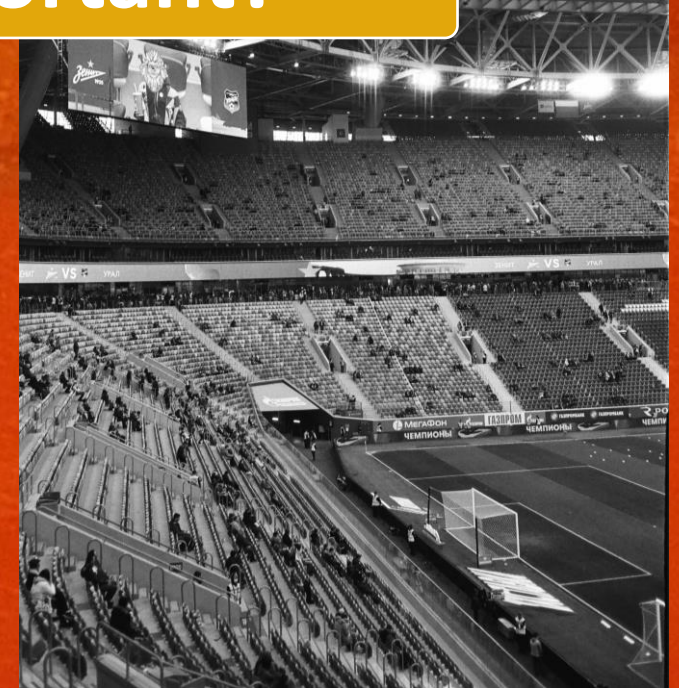
Why is this type of unity important?



Unity (color, highs/ lows)



Disunity (trying to hurt)



Disunity (not bought in)



Unity (Hands up, singing together)

Disunity can derail a team,  
family or the church!

# IN HIS LAST MOMENTS JESUS PRAYED...

**MAY THEY EXPERIENCE SUCH PERFECT UNITY THAT THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT YOU SENT ME AND THAT YOU LOVE THEM AS MUCH AS YOU LOVE ME.**"

Jesus is saying:

- The way we treat each other will affect what people believe about Him
- Our unity will make Jesus' message more believable

**JOHN 17: 23 NLT,  
(emphasis added)**

Unity doesn't  
mean we agree  
on everything all  
the time

Differences &  
diversity make us  
stronger

Unity does  
mean we seek  
to keep moving  
forward  
together

**Our unity becomes a way for the world to see God**

# HOW DO WE BECOME MORE UNIFIED?

(ESPECIALLY WHEN WE TEND TO FOCUS ON OUR DIFFERENCES)

Two things to keep in mind:

- 1) As followers, we need to embrace our differences & stay united on this thing that matters most, our love for Jesus
  - 2) We are responsible for our own contribution to the unity of the church, It begins with:
    - Your relationships with people
    - The way you treat people
    - How you talk about people
    - How you react
- Often times, you will have to make the 1<sup>st</sup> move