

ONE: UNITED IN CHRIST

PREGATHERING DEVOTIONS

Study #3:

FINDING UNITY IN CHRIST

READ

John 17:20-24

STUDY

- ♦ What is it like going to a professional or college sports game, especially before the game when everyone is finding their seats and getting their snacks? What kinds of people do you come across? Do you know everyone – why or why not? Can you always tell who's rooting for each team? Take some time to discuss all the people you might run into at a sports game. Does it feel like there's a lot of unity or disunity in this commotion of people?
- ♦ During the time before a sports game begins and everyone is moving around it can seem pretty chaotic. You have people heading in all kinds of directions. You'll notice not everybody does things in an orderly fashion. There are people that are wearing clothing for the home team, those who're wearing clothes for the away team, people wearing generic clothes, and there are some people who are wearing clothes that support some other team not at the game. But when the game begins, unity happens when all the fans start cheering for their team. What is this experience like? Have you been in this situation? Were you filled with excitement when the team scored and everyone was on their feet cheering?
- ♦ As Christians, we are like the fans in the stands. We are in unity as we are filled excitement and joy as God does something spectacular in front of us, like making a believer out of an unbeliever. The thing is, we're not just fans in the stands. We're also the players on the field. God uses each one of us to tell His story, as He ministers to His people, and when He saves someone. He uses us to make the big plays happen! Tell a story about a time you felt unity with other Christians while you were doing ministry. Were you cleaning someone's yard or home, feeding the homeless, helping someone in need, or building something that'll help someone when you weren't around? Was there excitement when someone came to faith or their faith was strengthened because you talked to them about Jesus?
- ♦ In our Bible verse we find Jesus praying. Who is He praying for? What is He praying for? How does this part of His prayer fit with our discussion of unity?

PRAYER

Take some time to list prayer requests. Please pray for each request. When you are finished with those pray this followed by the Lord's Prayer:

We pray in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Lord, even as You are three persons in one Godhead, make us to be united. May our unity be found in You because You are in us. Cleanse us and make us worthy of being Your people. Let our unity demonstrate to both believers and unbelievers the unity shared by the Trinity. In Jesus' name, amen.