



# WITHIN REACH

## The Power of Unity is Within Reach

Discussion Guide

March 18, 2018

John 17:20-23

### Questions for Study

**\*\*Before discussing these questions, read through John 17:20-23 as a group.**

1. Share a time when you were working as part of a larger team (maybe a sports team, or a team at work) to accomplish a goal. Describe the situation, and what you were working toward.
2. Why is unity important in a situation like the one you just described? What happens if division seeps in?
3. Read John 17:20-23. What does unity among believers result in, according to this passage?
4. All of John 17 is a prayer of Jesus – His longest recorded prayer in the Bible. It's His last prayer, before His arrest and crucifixion. How does this larger context – seeing that Jesus prays for unity in one of His last recorded prayers – show the importance of unity?
5. Now read the following passages. After each, share what they add to your understanding of the power and value of unity.
  - Acts 2:42-47
  - Ephesians 4:3-6
  - Revelation 5:9
6. Reflect on the last few questions. What stands out to you most about the power and value of unity?
7. What does a unified group of believers (and unity within the church) look like, in practical terms? Work together as a group to identify at least 6-8 important traits of a unified community.
8. What are 2-3 of the biggest obstacles to unity? How might these take shape in real life scenarios?
9. Unity takes intentionality. What character traits AND practices (spend time on both of these) are essential for a unified community? Create a list of 8-10 ingredients of a unified community.
10. What steps can you take in the next week to grow in one of the areas you just mentioned (see previous question). What will it look like for you to apply this?
11. In Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-23, He assumes that our unity as believers will be visible to a watching world – it's not "hidden" behind church walls. What can you do as a community group to help make your community life (including unity!) visible to others who may not know Jesus?
12. Brookside's current sermon series is something we're doing as part of the Within Reach Movement in Omaha – cooperating with dozens of other churches in the city to help reach our city for Christ. Before you finish, spend time as a group praying both for our city, and for the advance of the gospel through other healthy and vibrant churches in Omaha.
13. Challenge: Memorize Ephesians 4:3: Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.