Sermon Title: SO THAT… So That The World May Believe
Sermon Scripture: John 17:20-23

CANTON
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Sermon Discussion Guide (11/1)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture
Read John 17:20-23 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

In John 17:20-23, who does Jesus specifically pray for, and what does this reveal about His concern for future generations of believers? Do you share Jesus' concern? How have you shared Jesus' message?

According to the sermon, how has the witness of previous generations of Christians contributed to the growth of the church and the faith we have today? Specifically consider those who we are close to personally and those we have never met. For example, consider the generations that have flowed through this church since its inception.

What kind of unity does Jesus desire for His followers? How does the relationship between Jesus and the Father serve as an example of the unity He wants for the Church? Where have you seen this unity in your life?

According to the sermon, why is the unity of the Church important to the world's willingness to accept Jesus? What message does the way Christians treat one another communicate to those outside the church? Where do you see strong church unity, and where do you see the need for reconciliation?

Application

How intentional are you about investing in the spiritual growth of others, especially those outside of your family unit? Who is one person you can encourage, mentor, or walk alongside in their faith journey?

Jesus prayed that His followers would be one. Are there times that your personal preferences, opinions, or pride get in the way of unity with other believers? How can you better prioritize unity without sacrificing your faith or convictions?

If someone who did not know Jesus spent a week observing your relationship with other Christians, what would they learn about Jesus from the way we treat one another? What personally, do you do well at and where do you need to make corrections?

Just as Jesus left us a spiritual legacy, what kind of spiritual legacy do you want to leave behind? If someone were to look back on your life years from now, what would you hope they would say about your faith, influence, and the way you helped others know Christ?

Prayer

God, thank you for sending your one and only Son, so that we may understand your desiring for oneness. For unity. I also thank you for your grace for when we come up short of the example you've given us. I am grateful that it is not our mistakes that define us, but it is you who defines us. God, I pray that as we journey through life, that we learn to heed to and listen to the Holy Spirit, so there is less of us and more of You. In your name we pray, Amen.