

**Jesus Prays for Us**  
**John 17:20-26**

**WEEK 3**

## POINT WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.

Show motions for the words *pray* (fold hands), *one* (hold up index finger), and *love* (place hand over heart). Open your Bible to John 17, and show the children the words.  
**SAY: The Bible is God's special book that shows how God takes care of people. One way Jesus came to the rescue and helped people was by praying. In fact, he prayed for you and me! As I tell you what he said, do the motions whenever you hear the words *pray*, *one*, or *love*.**


**Jesus *prayed*** (have kids fold hands) **as he was walking to a garden. He said, "I *pray*** (have kids fold hands) **for my friends now and for all my friends in the future who will believe in me because of my friends now. I *pray*** (have kids fold hands) **they'll be *one*** (have kids hold up index finger) **and get along together as my Father and I are *one*** (have kids hold up index finger) **and get along perfectly. I've provided for them so they may be *one*** (have kids hold up index finger). **God, help them know you *love*** (have

kids place hands over hearts) **them as you *love*** (have kids place hands over hearts) **me. I *pray*** (have kids fold hands) **that their *love*** (have kids place hands over hearts) **for each other will help others know I *love*** (have kids place hands over hearts) **them and want to protect and provide for them." Jesus prayed this prayer about people who would believe in him in the future. That's us!**

**ASK: What surprised you about Jesus' prayer?**

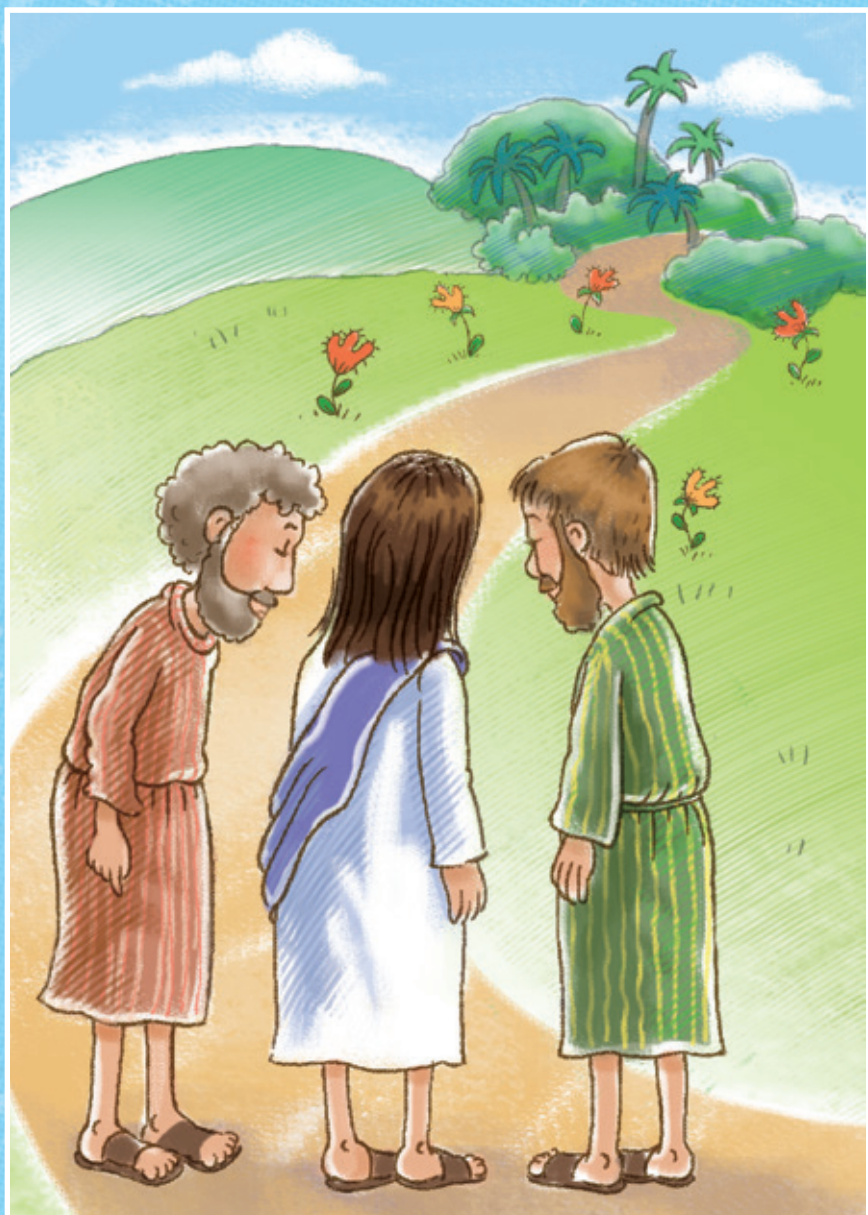
**Why is it important for Christians to love each other the way they love Jesus?**

**How can you show love to those around you this week?**

**SAY: Jesus prayed that we'd all get along. When we get along and show love, we show others that  WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.**







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Have kids sit in a circle, and play ● “Prayer Music” (track 8) on the *CD* in the background. SAY: **Let’s take a moment to pray silently about something you’d like God to help you with.** Allow time during the song.

**Now we’ll pray together for people in our church, the same way Jesus prayed for the people in our church. We’ll keep our eyes open while we pray.** Holding the *Atom Ball*, start the prayer time by praying aloud for someone in your church. Then gently toss the ball to someone else.

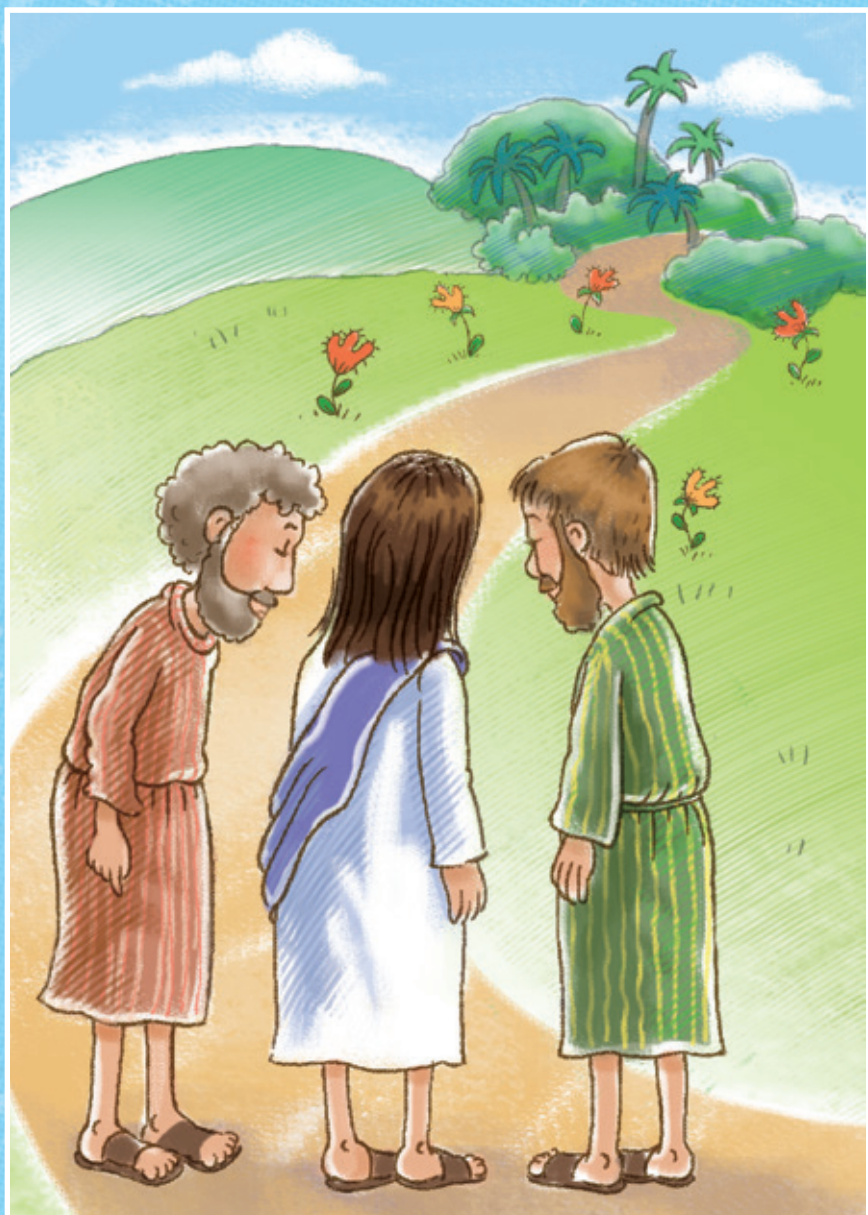
SAY: **Whoever gets the ball will pray. If you don’t want to pray, just pass the ball along. If you do pray, toss the ball to someone else when you finish.** When all willing children have prayed, SAY: **Jesus prayed for everyone who would ever believe in him. That includes us today!**

ASK: **Why is it important to pray for people who believe in Jesus?**

**What are some things you can pray about for your friends and our church this week?**

SAY: **Because** ➔ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE,** we know he always hears our prayers. And since Jesus prayed for us, we know it’s important to pray for other people who can believe in Jesus.





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we sang our song about God's love, we got closer and closer. Let's spread God's love so we can show  
➔ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Have kids stand far apart in a circle. Have kids hop in the circle path as they sing the words below to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" (not on the CD). Practice the song once with children before hopping.

SING:

**Jesus prayed for us  
So we could all be one.  
You and I can show God's love,  
And kindness can be fun.**

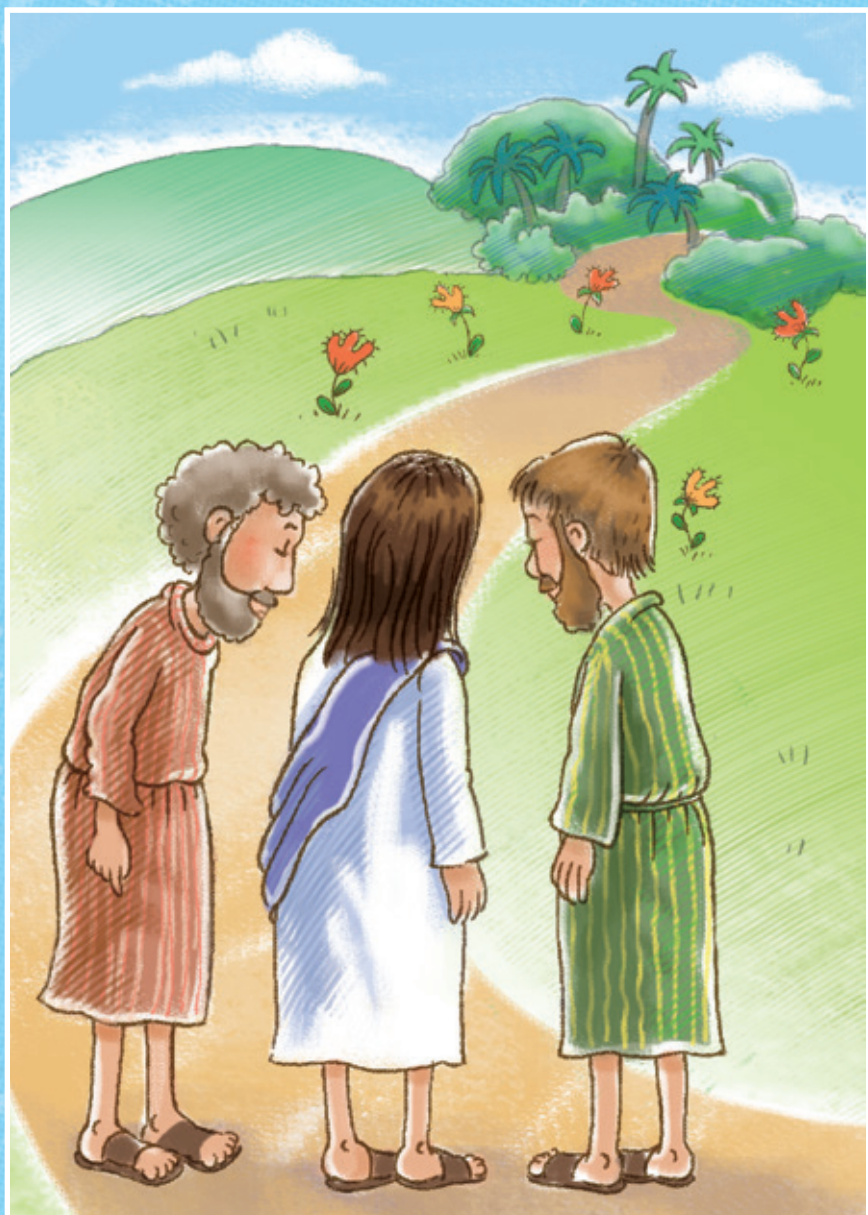
Repeat the song several times. After each time, step in to make the circle smaller. When you're close enough, hold hands and sing the song a few more times, until you can't get any closer.

ASK: **What happened to our circle  
the more we sang this song?**

**What helps Christians stay  
together and get along?**

SAY: **Jesus knew we'd hear about  
him and believe in him when he  
prayed for us as he walked to the  
garden. And he prayed that we'd  
all be close and get along. When**





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Pass out paper and *Color Switchers Markers*. Have kids draw pictures of people who've taught them about Jesus. Have them draw each person on a different piece of paper. When they finish, help kids each arrange their pictures on the floor in front of them like a family tree, placing relatives in front of them and friends all around.

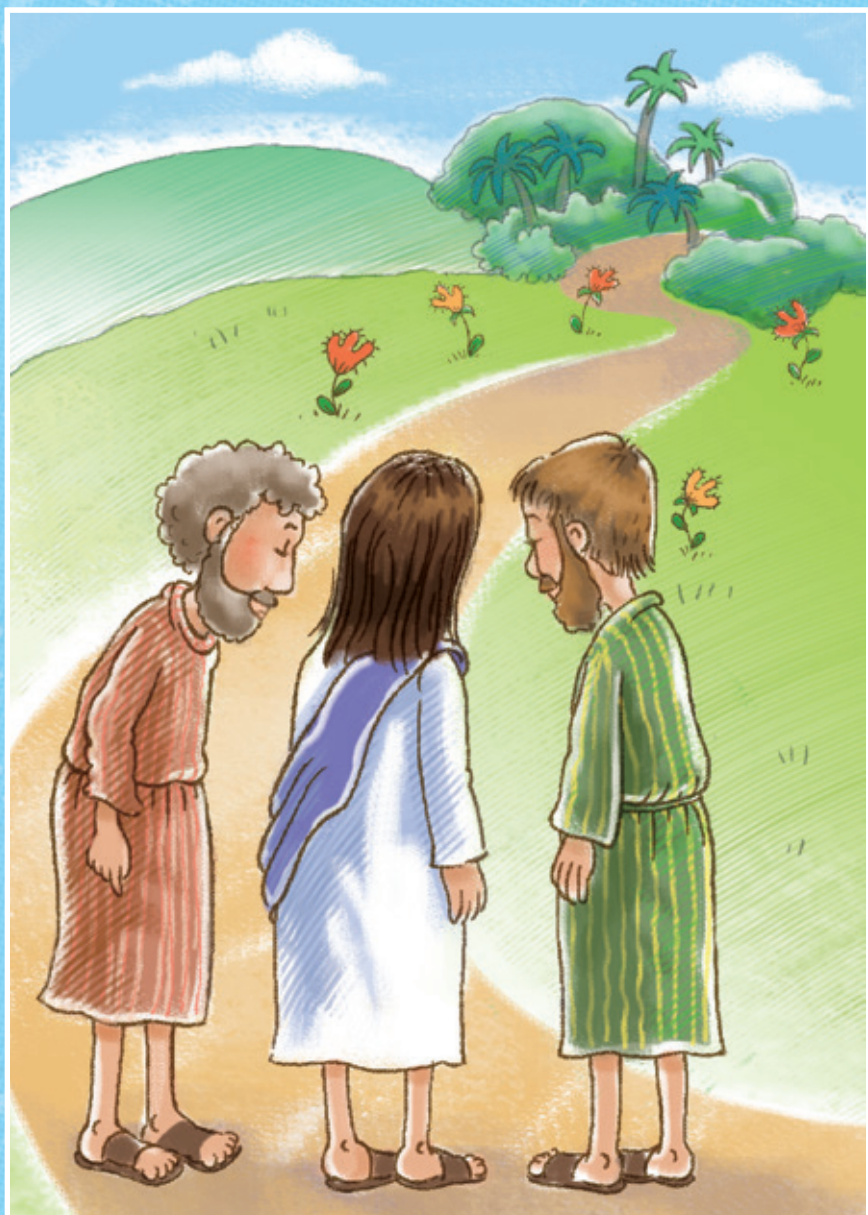
**SAY: The Bible tells us that Jesus prayed for his friends. Then he prayed for all the people who'd learn about him because of his friends. Jesus knew that his friends would tell people who'd tell people who would tell even more people. Look at our pictures—it shows people who've told us about Jesus. And there were people who told them, and people who told those people, and on and on back to Jesus' friends. That's how we know Jesus!**

**ASK:** What have you heard about Jesus from the people you drew?

What can you tell someone about Jesus to pass on the message?

**SAY:** ➔ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.** We know that because Jesus' friends helped spread the news to others that God loves them. Then those people spread the news all the way to you and me today. Jesus knew we'd believe, so he prayed for us. When we tell others that Jesus is alive, we help spread the message to more people who Jesus prayed would believe in him.





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Have kids form up to five groups. Have kids wiggle their fingers at each other and then raise their hands if they can see each other's fingers wiggling. **SAY: It's pretty easy to see someone's fingers wiggling when the fingers aren't covered up. When Jesus lived on earth, his friends and other people could see him easily.**

Have kids put their hands behind their backs and wiggle their fingers. Have them raise their hands if they can see each other's fingers wiggling. **SAY: When we hide our fingers, others can't see them wiggling. After Jesus came back to life, he went to heaven. We can't see him now the way his friends in Bible times did.**

Give each group a *Finger Puppet*. Have kids within each group take turns wiggling the finger with the *Finger Puppet* on it. Have other kids raise their hands when they see the finger wiggling.

**ASK: How did you know the finger was wiggling even though you couldn't actually see the finger?**

**What helps you know Jesus is alive even though you can't see him?**

**SAY: Jesus prayed for God to put his love in us. If we have God's love in us, Jesus lives inside us, too. When we live the way God wants us to, others see Jesus through us, kind of like we saw the finger move through the puppet. When ➔ WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE, we show it by living like Jesus and showing God's love, just like he prayed we would.**