

# **PBC Growing in Christ**

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**December 27, 2020**

# Class Norms

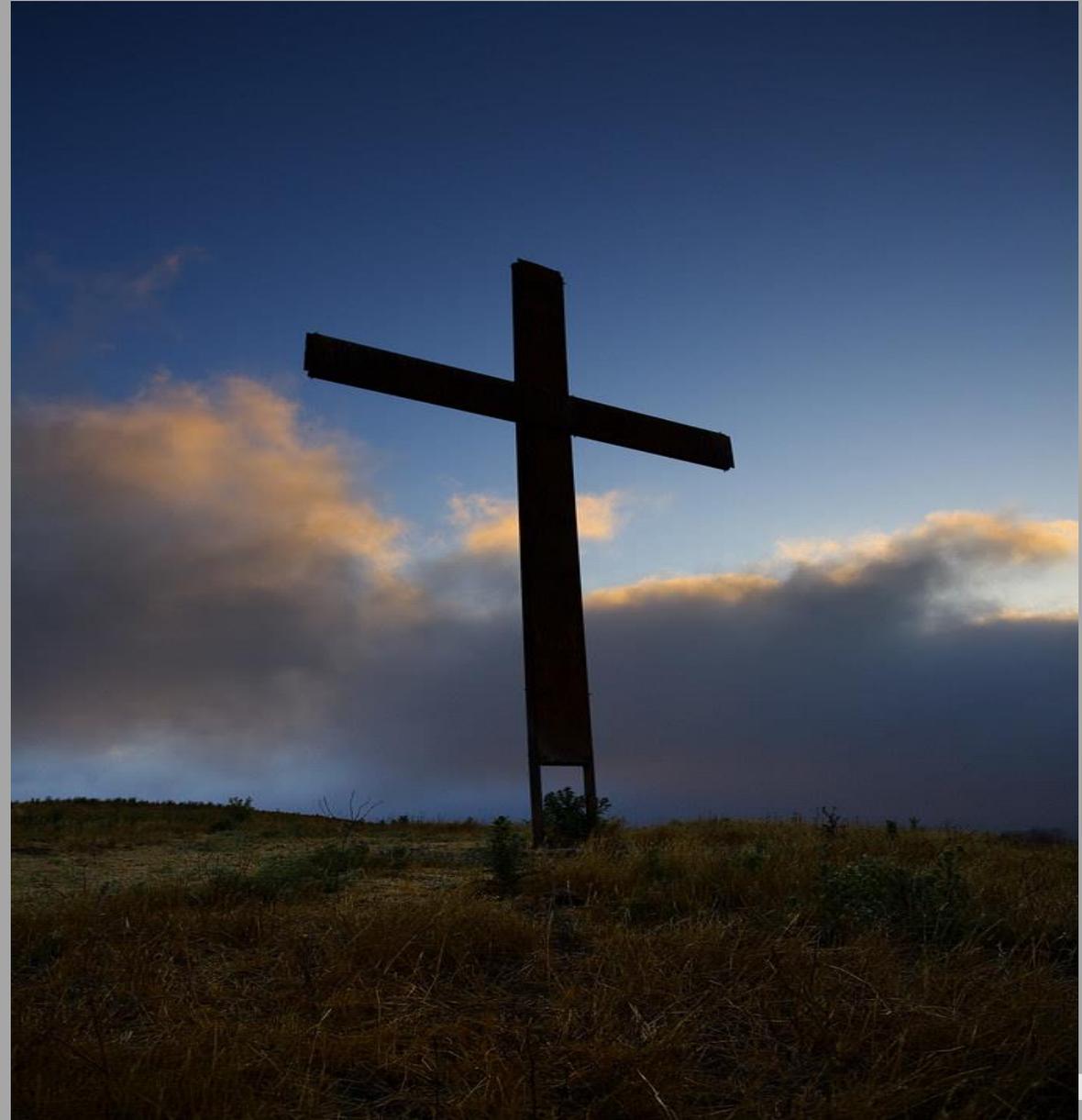
A large, dark wooden cross stands in a field of tall grass. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with a gradient from deep blue to orange and yellow near the horizon. The cross is the central focus, with its vertical post and two horizontal arms clearly visible against the sky.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

# Growing in Christ

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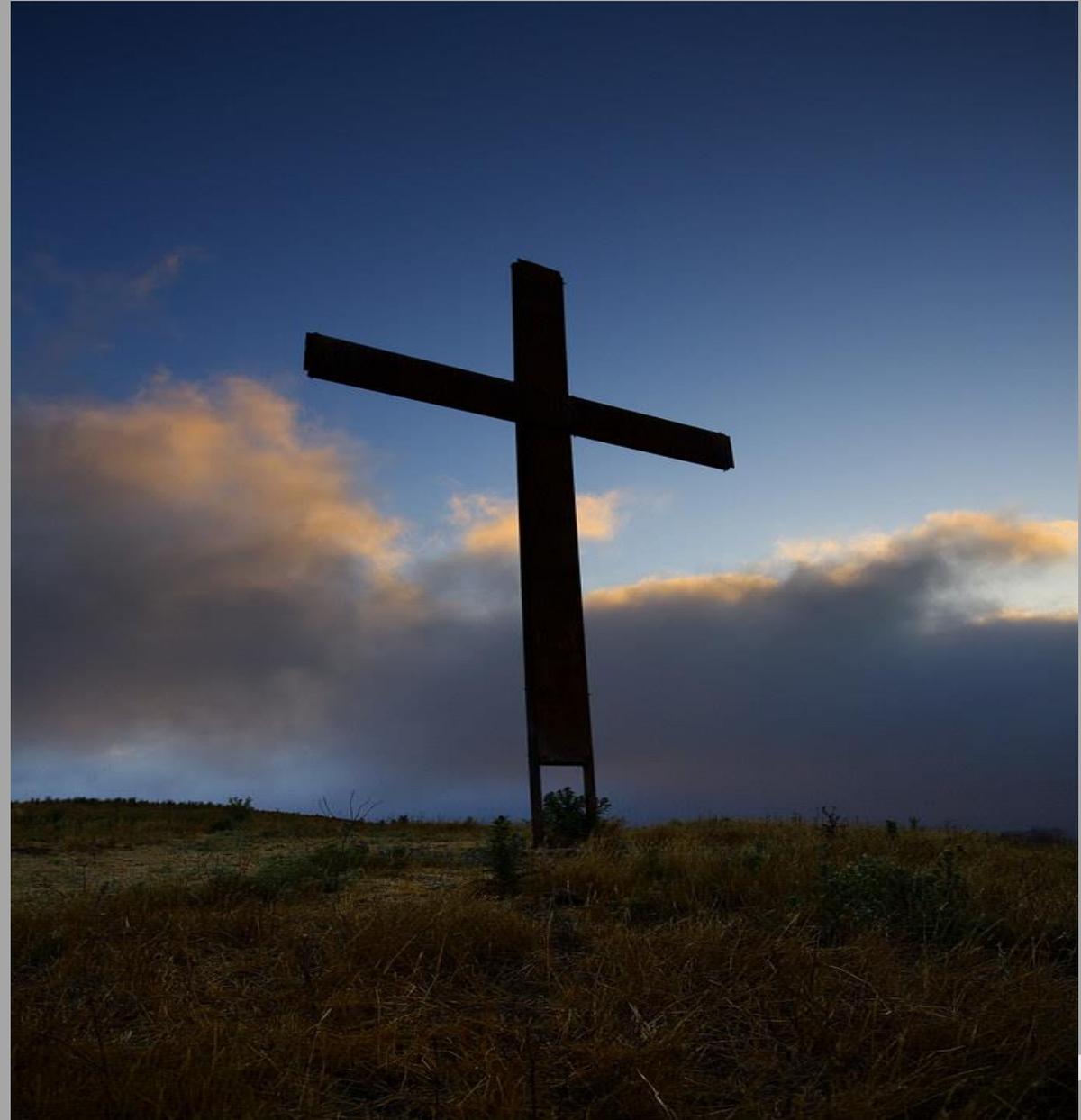
- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



# Growing in Christ

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*To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)*





## Intimacy with Jesus John 17:1-5, 21-26

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How do you choose to  
stay in touch with people  
you don't see all the  
time?

# Scripture

## Intimacy with Jesus

### John 17:1-5

1 Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to everyone you have given him. 3 This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent—Jesus Christ. 4 I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory I had with you before the world existed.



## Intimacy with Jesus John 17:1-5

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What does it look like to glorify God in today's world?

What do we learn about Jesus from this prayer?



# Intimacy with Jesus

## John 17:1-5

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- Heartfelt praying is deep praying. To really know God—to have an intimate relationship with the Lord—we must move beyond the rote and really connect with our heavenly Father. When we take the time and make the effort to do this, not only will we get to know Him better, but we also will feel the calming touch of His unseen hand throughout our day.
- Many of Jesus' prayers mentioned in the Gospel of John are prayers for God's glory. For example, when Jesus stood at Lazarus's tomb, He told Mary she was about to see the glory of God if she believed. Jesus came; He listened; He wept; He prayed; and then He ushered in God's glory by raising Lazarus from the dead.
- "Father, glorify your name" through "this hour" (John 12:27,28) is a reference to His death, burial, and, resurrection. Jesus desired for the people to see God's glory. As the events unfolded, people would see the depths of man's depravity at the foot of the cross, but they would also see the grand display of God's glory at the empty tomb and the ascension.
- Eternal life not only ensures that we will behold His glory face-to-face throughout eternity, it makes an intimate relationship with God possible here and now.

# Scripture

## Intimacy with Jesus

### John 17: 21-23

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,<sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.<sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—<sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.



# Intimacy with Jesus

## John 17: 21-23

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What does unity in the church look like?

How has prayer deepened your relationship with God?



# Intimacy with Jesus

## John 17: 21-26

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- Jesus prayed for unity, not conformity. What does that unity look like? It looks like the Triune God: the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus prayed, “May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you.” Jesus prayed that His followers would be unified in like manner. Our personalities aren’t to be absorbed and lost by our unity, but our self-interests will.
- When believers are connected to God, unity happens. We move beyond a surface relationship with God, into a deeper relationship in which we know Him intimately. There is no other path to unity.
- The spiritual discipline of heartfelt prayer isn’t limited to a private quiet time. While Scripture certainly tells of many people praying in “prayer closets,” we also find numerous accounts describing believers who gathered together for prayer. With one mind, one heart, and one purpose, God’s people lifted their prayers up to God.
- Jesus shares His glory with His people—“I have given them the glory you have given me” — but this wasn’t so we would possess His glory. His glory is to lead to our unity. One of the key things that points others to God and brings Him glory is when we, His children, live

# Scripture

## Intimacy with Jesus

### John 17: 24-26

24“Father, I want these people you have given me to be with me in every place I am. I want them to see my glory—the glory you gave me because you loved me before the world was made. 25Father, you are the one who always does what is right. The world does not know you, but I know you, and these followers of mine know that you sent me. 26I showed them what you are like, and I will show them again. Then they will have the same love that you have for me, and I will live in them.”



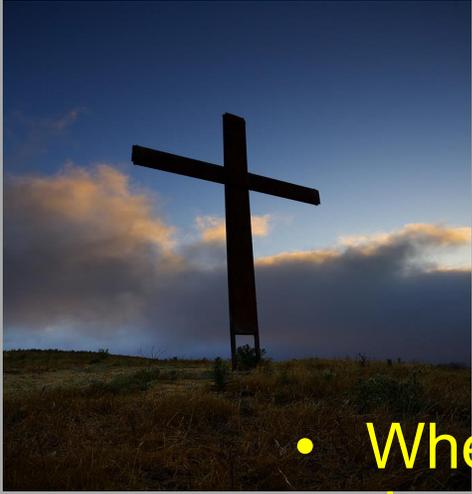
# Intimacy with Jesus

## John 17:24-26

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How have you seen and experienced God's love?

What adjectives would you use to describe Jesus' prayer?



# Intimacy with Jesus

## John 17: 24-26

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- When we follow Jesus' example, we pray for the things He prayed for, in the way He prayed for them. As we deepen our prayer life, praying as Jesus prayed, we experience His glory. Heartfelt prayer increases intimacy with God.



# GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

DECEMBER 20, 2020

- **Pray for God's glory.** Replace at least five minutes of social media time with additional time spent in prayer for God's glory. Ask Him to align your heart with His.
- **Pray for unity.** Gather with others to spend time in concentrated prayer for unity among believers in your church, your community, and around the world.
- **Pray like Jesus.** Spend time this week reading Jesus' prayers recorded in the gospels (for examples, see Matthew 6:9-13, John 17:1-26). Note what Jesus desired and prayed for. As you read, pray for these things in your life and in the world.



# Final thoughts about Intimacy with Jesus

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- When we follow Jesus' example, we pray for the things He prayed for, in the way He prayed for them. As we deepen our prayer life, praying as Jesus prayed, we experience His glory. Heartfelt prayer increases intimacy with God.

# Resources

- **John 17:6-21; 1:1-3; 14:15; 15:4-5, 8**
- **Matthew 16:24-27**
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**
- **BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth**
- **[Bible.com](http://Bible.com)**



Next Week: January 3, 2021  
**Maintaining Focus on Jesus**

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Daniel 9:1-7,17-19

How do you tune out  
distractions when you really  
need to focus?"



# God Bless You!

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