



**Go Deeper, John 17.1-11 – a distinct blessing**

Dear Miners,

I hope that sermon didn't wander too much! As I said, I have a distinctly ambivalent attitude to John, I have come to love reading it, I love sermons and books about it, and at the same time I find myself ever aware that there are such depths still to plumb that I scarcely dare preach on it. I would love for others to come to appreciate it too, to revel in its complexity. For me, that took a well-taught module in a theology degree, I hope to give you a glimpse of what I caught there.

- Always the best and first resource is the book itself – do you know it? Try reading it in as few sittings as you can, or as I mentioned, listening to it. The YouVersion Bible app has several translations with a full audio version. If you compare John with any of the synoptic gospels, you'll soon see the style differences (Mark is the shortest!).
- What do you find to be the differences between praying alone and praying in a group, between scripted prayers that you or others have written and extemporaneous ones? Which feel more natural, which uncomfortable? What might you be pushed to find value in?
- This passage comes as Jesus prepares his disciples for his death unflinchingly facing the reality of mortality. Does that change how you read it? Have you had those conversation with your family about your death or theirs, about what you want them to know? It's uncomfortable, but we see it as a part of Jesus' love for us – are we not therefore called to follow suit? Recently Victoria wrote eulogies for her parents and for me, realising –at another funeral – that the person eulogised could not here how and how much they were loved. Writing one for her was one of the bravest and most beautiful things I have ever done. Speak your truths to each other, as often and specifically as you can.
- Are you in a small group? Does it look like Jesus's group? (Do join one, really!)

Every Blessing

Rob

**Deeper Stuff**

The YouVersion Bible app is a must-have; it's free for both android and Apple devices.

Books that have helped me this week include the perennial *How to Read the Bible Book by Book* by Fee and Stuart and Tom Wright's *John for Everyone*. Working Preacher's articles from [Lindsey S. Jodrey](#) and [Jaime Clark-Soles](#) were a blessing too, as was the [Talking Theology podcast](#) interview with David Ford on rereading John.