

The Upper Room Blueprint – Lesson 11

“Jesus’ Mission and the Church’s Mission: Remembering Our Purpose”

Summary

John 17:1–5 shows Jesus centering His life on glorifying the Father by completing His mission. As He returns to the Father in glory, He passes that mission to the church, calling believers to refocus their lives and ministries on God’s purpose.

Scripture

John 17:1–5

1. Introduction

Opening Thought

Every church and every believer knows what it feels like to drift. Not intentionally. Not rebelliously. Just gradually. **Purpose gets buried under busyness, distractions, personal struggles, competing priorities and cultural pressure.** The disciples were approaching a moment like this. Jesus was about to be arrested. Their expectations were collapsing. Their sense of purpose was slipping through their fingers.

And right in that moment, Jesus prays. Not a prayer of panic. Not a prayer of confusion. A prayer of clarity. “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son...”

Jesus centers Himself—and His disciples—on the mission again. He reminds them that everything He has done, everything He will do, and everything they will do is about glorifying the Father and advancing His redemptive purpose.

➔ This passage calls the church back to its center: **we exist to glorify God by continuing the mission of Jesus.**

Jesus’ Mission as Described in Matthew 1:21

Matthew 1:21 states that Jesus’ mission is **to save His people from their sins**, and this single sentence frames the entire purpose of His life and ministry. The angel’s instruction to name Him *Jesus* (Yeshua, meaning “Yahweh saves”) directly ties His identity to His mission: **He is the Savior who delivers humanity from the guilt, power, and consequences of sin.** This verse clarifies that Jesus did not come primarily as a political liberator or social reformer, but as the One who brings **spiritual and moral rescue**, fulfilling God’s long-promised redemption.

2. Scriptures that Describe Our Mission

Ecclesiastes 12:13 – *Individual*

This passage distills human purpose into two interwoven actions: **reverence** and **obedience**. “Fear God” is not terror but a posture of awe, humility, and recognition of God’s sovereignty. “Keep His commandments” expresses covenantal loyalty — living according to God’s revealed will. Together, they frame mission as **faithful worship expressed through ethical living**.

Key theological themes:

- God as the ultimate authority and judge
- Human accountability
- Worship as the foundation of mission
- Obedience as the practical outworking of reverence

Micah 6:8 – *Social*

Micah reframes mission as **ethical embodiment** rather than ritual performance. Justice (mishpat) means actively setting things right; mercy (hesed) means covenantal love and compassion; humility means living in dependence on God rather than self-assertion. Mission is expressed through **social righteousness, compassionate relationships, and humble discipleship**.

Key theological themes:

- Justice as a divine expectation
- Mercy as covenantal faithfulness
- Humility as the posture of true discipleship
- Mission as ethical participation in God’s character

Matthew 28:18–20 – *Corporate*

Jesus defines mission as **disciple-making**, grounded in His universal authority. The command includes going, baptizing, and teaching — forming communities shaped by Jesus’ life and teachings. The promise of His presence (“I am with you always”) frames mission as empowered, relational, and ongoing.

Key theological themes:

- Christ’s authority over all creation
- Evangelism and discipleship
- Formation through teaching and baptism
- God’s presence as the power behind mission

3. Jesus' Mission Was to Reveal the Father (John 17:1–3)

“The hour has come.”

Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus' “hour” refers to His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. This is the climax of His mission. Jesus' mission was not random—it was divinely timed, divinely purposed, and divinely empowered.

Jesus Glorifies the Father by Completing His Work

Jesus glorifies the Father by:

- revealing His character
- teaching His truth
- demonstrating His love
- obeying His will
- offering His life

Biblical Illustration: Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3)

God reveals His name and character to Moses so Israel can know who He is.

Jesus does the same—He reveals the Father so the world can know Him.

Eternal Life Is Knowing God

Jesus defines eternal life not as a destination but a relationship:

“That they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

➔ Jesus' mission was relational—bringing people into the life of God.

4. Jesus' Mission Continues Through the Church (John 17:4–5)

“I have finished the work You gave Me to do.”

Jesus completed His earthly mission, but the mission itself continues through His followers. The church does not invent its mission—it inherits it.

Jesus Returns to Glory to Empower His People

Jesus' glorification is not self-centered—it is mission-centered. He prays to be glorified so He can send the Spirit, empower the church, advance the gospel, build His kingdom.

The Church's Mission Is to Make God Known

The church exists to continue what Jesus started. We glorify God by:

- proclaiming Christ
- living out His character
- loving people sacrificially
- serving with humility
- advancing the gospel

5. Practical Application: Rededicated to Purpose

Principle	Application
Rediscover the “Why” Behind Everything	Churches lose momentum when they forget their purpose. Every ministry, meeting, and moment should be anchored in glorifying God. We should ask, “How does this glorify God?” before starting any new initiative.
Align Your Life with Jesus’ Mission	Purpose becomes clear when your priorities match Jesus’ priorities. Identify one area of life where your mission has drifted and realign it this week.
Live as a Revelation of God’s Character	People see God through His people. Choose one attribute of God—grace, patience, truth, compassion—and intentionally display it.
Serve With Eternal Perspective	Jesus lived with His “hour” in mind. We must live with eternity in view. Serve someone this week with no expectation of return.
Stay Connected to the Source of Mission	Purpose fades when prayer fades. Mission grows when communion with God grows. Spend 10 minutes daily praying, “Father, glorify Yourself in me.”

6. Discussion Questions

- What does Jesus mean when He says, “The hour has come”?
- How does Jesus define eternal life, and why is that important for mission?
- What does it look like for the church to inherit Jesus’ mission?
- Where do churches most often drift from their purpose?
- What is one practical way you can glorify God this week?

7. Closing Thoughts

John 17:1–5 reminds us that Jesus lived with clear purpose—to glorify the Father and reveal Him to the world. As His people, we are called to carry that mission forward. When the church re-centers on purpose, it becomes a powerful witness of God’s glory.

Challenge for the Week

Each day this week, pray:

“Father, glorify Yourself in my life and in our church.”

Then take one intentional step that reflects Jesus’ mission—serve, encourage, share, forgive, or love in a way that points people to God.