

Standing in the Gap

What's It All About?

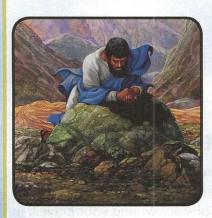
"All right," Jack's father called out. "Move everything off that table so I can put this box down!" He carefully placed the box in the center of the table and said with a big sigh of relief, "Finally!"

The box contained things that were very valuable and very breakable—old expensive dishes and drinking glasses that Jack's father had been asked to take to the museum.

The next day, Jack rode in the car with his father as he went to deliver the special package. Jack sat in the

back seat with the box to make sure that it did not slip or slide anywhere. When they finally arrived, the two of them carefully carried the box up the stairs, through the doors, past the security guards, and set the box down in the middle of a large table. Then they all breathed another sigh of relief. All the plates and glasses had been delivered safely, and not one of them had been lost or damaged.

Have you ever been responsible for seeing that something precious arrived safely to its destination? If so, describe what or who was in your care and how you demonstrated care.



Learning From God

Prayer was an important part of the life of Jesus while He was here on this earth. He spent much time in prayer because He was talking to His Father. Today's lesson is about one of those prayers. As you read it, remember that He was talking to His Father, God, about His followers, the disciples. Notice some of the things He said about them.

John 17:14-24, NIV-I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

[Jesus asked His Father to continue to protect the disciples from the evil of this world. He asked that they be protected, kept safe, and made holy or sanctified. They were to be given the important task of bringing the message of Christ to the whole world, so they needed that special blessing from the Father.]

20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 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. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—23 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. 24 "Father, I

want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.	
What I Have Learned	
Use the word bank to fill in the missing words in Jesus' prayer and say which verse the prayer is from.	
ALONE BELIEVE ME PRAY THEM WORD	
My is not for them	
I pray also for who will	
in through	
their <u>No. 1</u> .	
From what verse is the above passage?	
Keep In Mind	
"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message" (John 17:20, NIV).	
Choosing What's Best	
Jesus prayed to God, His Father, asking Him to protect His followers from the evil one. Following his example, are there any people in your life you could ask God to protect? On the lines in the next column, write down the names of those who need God's protection.	Doing My Part Your challenge this week is to remember to pray to God, asking Him to keep and protect all those who are important to you. Consider writing your prayers in a journal each day to review them periodically.
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