

These notes suggest ways you can prepare for the sermon that will be preached on September 26, 2021 at First Evan. Feel free to use them for class or small group discussion. Feel free to pick just one or use them all.

1. This fourth sermon in the series “Strengthen Your Core” is based on what is called “The High Priestly Prayer” of Jesus that followed the Upper Room Discourse. This prayer is found in John 17 and can be broken into three parts: (1) Jesus’ Personal Prayer (17:1–5); (2) Jesus’ Prayer for the Apostles (17:6–19); (3) Jesus’ Prayer for Us (17:20–6). Read through this entire chapter and identify a key idea for each of the three parts of Jesus’ prayer. Pay close attention to 17:20–26. What is Jesus’ asking Father to do for us?
2. There is a lot of controversy among Bible believing followers of Jesus concerning the “point of origin” for our salvation. Are we saved because we choose Jesus or are we saved because Jesus chooses us? Here are some verses that will be mentioned in the sermon. How do they help us to answer this question: Romans 10:12–13; John 3:16; Acts 13:48; 2 Timothy 1:9.
3. Here is a statement from the sermon based on John 17:1–3: *The essence of eternal life is an intimate, continuous, dynamic relationship with God and with His Son, Jesus.* What does this mean? As you anticipate our heavenly future, what does this statement (and John 17:3) suggest it will be like? Read Revelation 21:1–7. How does this passage relate?
4. In His high-priestly prayer, Jesus says: *“I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me* (John 17:23). In what way does the context indicate the specific kind of unity that Jesus has in mind? What is it? What is it not? And what are the two results of this oneness?
5. Read the account of the woman at the well and especially focus on Jesus’ counsel in John 4:13–14. What was the woman’s problem and what did Jesus prescribe? Who do you know who is struggling with the same core problem as the woman at the well? What would Jesus prescribe? What role might God want you to play in ministering to this person?
6. So far, we have considered One Heart, One Way, One Truth, and One Life. Look at these passages and try to identify which one of the core principles was being compromised by the relevant church: Ephesus (Revelation 2:4); Thyatira (Revelation 2:20); Pergamum

(Revelation 2:14–15); Sardis (Revelation 3:1).

## STRENGTHENING YOUR CORE

One Heart One Way One Truth **One Life** One Mission One Peace One Hope