That We May Know the Father

Seven Morning Reflections on Yeshua’s Prayer

Returning to the Ancient Path Ministry

One Father • One Family • One Home



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Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV). Yeshua is the Hebrew name used for Jesus throughout these reflections.

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Introduction — An Invitation to Know the Father

Before we begin our morning with the many things that require our attention, let us pause to hear the desire expressed in Yeshua’s prayer: that we might know the Father.

In John 17, Yeshua speaks to the Father as He approaches the cross. His prayer opens a window into the purpose of His coming. He has made the Father known, given His disciples the Father’s words, and prayed that they might be kept, sanctified, and brought into unity. At the close of the prayer, He speaks of the Father’s love dwelling in them.

This collection invites us to linger over that prayer for seven mornings. We will listen to Yeshua’s words and consider how knowing the Father shapes our trust, obedience, relationships, and daily response to His love.

For Returning to the Ancient Path Ministry, this desire lies close to the heart of our work: that people may know the Father through Yeshua, His appointed Son, who perfectly reveals Him.

Read slowly. Keep your Bible open. Give yourself time to pray honestly. As you move through each reflection, ask the Father to help you receive His words and walk in what He shows you.

Our prayer is that these mornings will bear fruit in the ordinary places of life: in our homes, in our work, and in the way we treat one another.

Day 1 — That We May Know the Father



Scripture for the morning

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”
— John 17:3, KJV

Read John 17:1–3.

Morning Manna

There is a longing beneath many of our prayers. We want direction. We want help with what burdens us. We want to understand why certain doors remain closed and how to face the responsibilities before us.

The Father welcomes us to bring these concerns to Him. Yet, as we listen to Yeshua’s prayer, we hear an invitation that reaches into the heart of every concern: to know the One to whom we pray.

Yeshua describes eternal life in terms of knowing the Father, the only true God, and knowing Himself as the One the Father sent. These words call us into a relationship that gives our lives their direction and meaning.

We can speak often about God and still have much to learn of His heart. Our experiences with authority, disappointment, or broken relationships may shape what we expect from Him. We may approach Him cautiously, wondering whether He will receive us, hear us, or remain faithful when we are weak.

Yeshua makes the Father known. In the Son’s words and works, we see the Father’s compassion, holiness, truth, and

faithfulness. Yeshua's obedience shows us a life ordered by the Father's will. His care for people teaches us to look more closely at the heart of the One who sent Him.

This morning, we are invited to bring our understanding of the Father into the light of His Son. As we listen to Yeshua, we can ask: What is He showing me about the Father? What have I been slow to receive? How might that understanding change the way I live today?

Knowing the Father grows as we receive His words, trust His character, and respond to Him in obedience. A truth we read in the morning may become a choice we make later: to speak gently, to tell the truth, to release a burden in prayer, or to obey when our own preference pulls another way.

May knowing the Father through His Son lead us to hear Him and walk faithfully in His ways.

Before the demands of this day gather around you, pause with this prayer: "Father, help me to know You."

You can begin with the concerns already in your heart. Bring them before Him, open His Word, and listen to what Yeshua reveals.

Pause and reflect

What do Yeshua's words and actions reveal about the Father that I need to receive more deeply today?

A response for today

Read John 17:1–3 slowly. Write one truth the passage teaches about the Father or the Son He sent. Let that truth guide one specific response during your day.

Prayer

Father, I come before You with the desire to know You more deeply. Help me to receive what You have made known through Yeshua, Your appointed Son. Where my understanding has been shaped by fear, disappointment, or mistaken expectations, teach me through Your Word. Help me to trust Your character and respond to Your truth. Let what I learn of You shape my words, choices, and care for others today. In Yeshua’s name, amen.

Day 2 — The Son Makes the Father Known



Scripture for the morning

“Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”
— John 14:9, KJV

Read John 14:7–11.

Morning Manna

“Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.”

Philip’s request gives words to a longing we may carry ourselves. We want to know what the Father is like. We want assurance that we can trust Him with our lives, our families, and the things we cannot resolve.

Yeshua’s answer invites Philip to consider the One who has been walking beside him. He has heard Yeshua teach, watched Him receive people, and witnessed His works. Now Yeshua helps him understand what these encounters have revealed: “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.”

Yeshua, the Son whom the Father sent, makes the Father known through His words, works, and faithful obedience.

In the verses that follow, He explains that His words and works arise from His union with the Father. He directs Philip’s attention to the Father at work in Him. As we listen to the Son, we learn how to understand the One who sent Him.

This gives us a place to begin when our understanding of the Father feels uncertain. We can open the Scriptures and attend closely to Yeshua.

Watch Him receive those who come with their need. Hear Him speak truth to those whose hearts resist it. Notice His compassion for the weary and His call to repentance. Consider His patience with His disciples as He teaches them to trust and obey.

Together, these encounters help us see the Father's character more clearly. His compassion welcomes us to draw near. His holiness calls us to turn from sin. His truth exposes what harms us, and His faithfulness gives us reason to trust Him.

Sometimes we receive one part of this revelation more readily than another. We may welcome comfort while hesitating before correction. We may recognise His authority while struggling to believe His tenderness toward us. Knowing the Father requires us to keep listening, allowing the Son's witness to deepen and correct our understanding.

When we fear that our weakness makes us unwelcome, we can consider how Yeshua received those who sought His mercy. When we are tempted to excuse a harmful habit, we can hear His call to repentance. When obedience feels costly, we can look at the Son's trust in the Father and ask for strength to follow.

There is also a quiet invitation in Yeshua's question to Philip: "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me?"

It invites us to pay attention. We may have read familiar passages many times and still have more to receive from them. Let us slow down enough to notice what Yeshua is showing us.

The Father has made Himself known through His appointed Son. May we receive that revelation with open hearts and let it

shape our steps today.

Pause and reflect

As I consider Yeshua’s words and actions, what expectation about the Father needs to be deepened or corrected?

A response for today

Read John 14:7–11 slowly. Write down one thing Yeshua says about His relationship with the Father. Carry that truth into your prayers today.

Prayer

Father, thank You for making Yourself known through Yeshua, Your appointed Son. Teach me to attend closely to His words and works. Help me receive Your compassion, honour Your holiness, and trust Your faithfulness. Where my understanding is incomplete, give me a humble and teachable heart. Let what I see in Your Son guide my response to You and my care for others. In Yeshua’s name, amen.

Day 3 — Receiving the Father's Words



Scripture for the morning

"For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."
— John 17:8, KJV

Read John 17:6–8.

Morning Manna

Some words remain with us long after they are spoken. They shape what we believe, what we fear, and what we expect from life. A word of encouragement may give us courage to continue. A careless word may leave a wound we carry for years.

As we begin the day, we can consider the words we have allowed to shape our hearts.

In His prayer, Yeshua tells the Father, "I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me." He has faithfully delivered what He received from the Father. Through His teaching, the disciples have been given words by which to understand the Father, recognise His Son, and learn how to walk.

Then Yeshua says, "They have received them."

Receiving involves attention and trust. We make room for what has been spoken. We allow it to question our assumptions, guide our choices, and call us into obedience.

The disciples still had much to learn. Difficult hours lay ahead, and their weakness would become painfully visible. Yet Yeshua acknowledged that they had received the Father's words and believed that the Father had sent Him.

There is encouragement here for us. We can come to the Scriptures with honest questions and an unfinished understanding. We can ask the Father to teach us while responding faithfully to what He has already made clear.

Perhaps a familiar passage calls us to forgive someone. Perhaps it directs us to speak truthfully, care for a neighbour, or bring our anxieties before the Father. Receiving that word gives us something to practise in the circumstances before us.

Sometimes we hesitate because obedience touches an area we would rather protect. We may understand the instruction while postponing our response. In those moments, we can pray honestly: "Father, I hear what You are saying. Help me to yield."

We also need care in how we listen. Our desires, other people's advice, and the many voices around us can influence what we think the Father is saying. Yeshua's words invite us to return to Scripture, read attentively, and let the passage speak in its context. We can seek understanding patiently, without forcing an answer.

Give the Father's words your attention before the day fills with competing demands. Notice what Yeshua says. Ask what the passage teaches and what a faithful response would look like.

As we receive the Son's witness, we are invited to trust the Father who sent Him. May His words find a welcome in us and bear fruit in the way we live.

Pause and reflect

What instruction from Scripture have I understood but been slow to put into practice?

A response for today

Read John 17:6–8. Write down what these verses say the disciples received and believed. Ask the Father to help you receive the Son’s witness with the same trust.

Prayer

Father, thank You for the words You gave through Yeshua. Give me a listening heart and patience to understand Your Scriptures carefully. Help me recognise where my preferences resist Your instruction. Strengthen me to practise what You have made clear, and teach me where I still have questions. May Your truth take root in my heart and bear fruit in my choices. In Yeshua’s name, amen.

Day 4 — Kept in the Father’s Name



Scripture for the morning

“And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.”
— John 17:11, KJV

Read John 17:11–15.

Morning Manna

Some mornings begin with concern for the people we love. Before we rise, our thoughts have already travelled to our children, our families, and those facing difficulties we cannot resolve.

We want to keep them safe. We want their hearts to remain steady. We may wonder how they will face the pressures around them—and how we will face our own.

In John 17, Yeshua brings His disciples before the Father. He knows the difficulties they will encounter as He returns to the Father and they remain in the world. His prayer gives us words to dwell on: “Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me.”

The disciples are precious to Him. He has taught them, walked with them, and guarded them. Now He entrusts them to the Father’s keeping.

Yeshua’s prayer connects their keeping with the Father’s name—the Father whom He has made known—and with their

continuing unity. The name points us to His revealed identity and character. The disciples' security rests in the Father to whom they belong.

Yeshua cares deeply about their continuing life with Him. He prays for their unity, speaks of His joy being fulfilled in them, and asks that they be kept from evil amid the hostility they will face.

His prayer makes room for the reality of a difficult world. In verse 15, He says, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

The disciples will still have responsibilities, relationships, and a witness to bear. They need the Father's keeping as they live among people who may resist the words they have received.

Their situation helps us pray with greater understanding. We can ask for safety and relief while also asking the Father to preserve our faithfulness. We can pray that pressure will not turn our hearts toward bitterness, that fear will not govern our choices, and that temptation will not draw us away from His truth.

We need His help when frustration rises in a conversation, when a difficult decision unsettles us, or when weariness makes us careless with our words.

His concern also reaches into our life together. As we ask the Father to keep us, we can ask Him to guard our relationships from pride, resentment, and division.

For those carrying concern for their families, this prayer offers a way to bring them before the Father. We can name them in prayer, seek wisdom for our responsibilities, and entrust to Him what lies beyond our reach.

Pause over the words “Holy Father.” Bring Him the day ahead and the people on your heart. Ask Him to keep you faithful as you walk through it.

Pause and reflect

Where do I most need the Father’s keeping today—in my thoughts, my choices, or my relationships?

A response for today

Pray for yourself and one person you love. Ask the Father to keep you both faithful to His truth amid the pressures you face.

Prayer

Holy Father, thank You for the care revealed in Yeshua’s prayer. I bring You my concerns and the people I love. Keep us from evil, strengthen us when we are tempted, and help us remain faithful under pressure. Guard our relationships from bitterness and division. Give me wisdom to fulfil my responsibilities and trust You with what lies beyond my reach. In Yeshua’s name, amen.

Day 5 — Sanctified Through His Truth



Scripture for the morning

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
— John 17:17, KJV

Read John 17:16–19.

Morning Manna

Before the day begins, we may already have a list of things to accomplish. There are people to help, duties to fulfil, and decisions waiting for our attention.

Yeshua’s prayer invites us to consider the heart with which we will enter those responsibilities.

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

To sanctify is to set apart for God. As Yeshua prays for His disciples, He asks the Father to set them apart through His truth. They belong to Him, and their lives are to reflect that belonging as they carry out the work entrusted to them.

In the next verse, Yeshua speaks of sending them into the world. Their being set apart has a purpose: they will live among others as people shaped by the Father’s words.

This brings His prayer close to our lives. We enter homes, classrooms, workplaces, and communities. In each place, our words and actions reveal what is shaping us.

The Father’s truth teaches us how to speak when we are frustrated, how to act when no one is watching, and how to

respond when our desires pull against what is right.

Sometimes we read a passage and feel its comfort. At other times, we recognise something in ourselves that needs to change. We may see pride beneath our need to be heard, dishonesty in an excuse, or resentment behind words we thought were justified.

Those moments call for an honest response. We can bring what has been exposed before the Father, ask His forgiveness, and seek His help to walk differently.

This work requires a teachable heart. Familiarity with Scripture can make us quick to recognise a verse while slow to consider its claim upon our own lives. We may think immediately of someone else who needs to hear it. We can pause and ask, “Father, how does this truth address me?”

Yeshua also says, “And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.” As He approaches the cross, Yeshua consecrates Himself to the Father’s saving purpose for their sake. His words express His faithful dedication to that work.

As we follow Him, we learn to place our lives at the Father’s disposal. That surrender takes practical form. We may need to correct something we said, keep a promise that has become inconvenient, or turn away from a habit that weakens our obedience.

Begin with the response that is clear before you. Open the Scriptures with a willingness to be taught. Let the Father’s truth examine your choices as well as encourage your heart. Ask Him for strength to practise what you receive.

May the places we enter encounter the fruit of a life being shaped by His Word.

Pause and reflect

What attitude or habit is the truth of Scripture calling me to surrender?

A response for today

Read John 17:16–19. Identify one choice you can make today that reflects your belonging to the Father, and carry it out prayerfully.

Prayer

Father, sanctify me through Your truth. Give me a teachable heart as I read Your Word. Help me receive its correction honestly and practise what You show me. Where my attitudes and habits resist Your ways, lead me to repentance and strengthen my obedience. Let my words, work, and relationships reflect my belonging to You. In Yeshua’s name, amen.

Day 6 — That We May Be One



Scripture for the morning

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”
— John 17:20–21, KJV

Read John 17:20–23.

Morning Manna

As Yeshua prays, His words reach beyond the disciples gathered around Him. He explicitly includes those who will believe through their witness. His prayer therefore reaches forward to believers who receive that testimony.

His desire is “that they all may be one.”

This unity has its source in the Father and the Son. Yeshua prays that believers may share a life rooted in them. As we receive the Father’s truth and learn to walk in His love, our relationships are called to reflect that belonging.

There is tenderness in this prayer, and there is a searching challenge. We can speak warmly about the Father’s family while struggling to receive particular members of it. Differences may unsettle us. Disappointment may make us guarded. We may hold tightly to an offence or become more concerned with defending our position than understanding another person.

The prayer invites us to bring those responses before the Father.

Unity grows through the ways we treat one another. It takes shape when we listen carefully, speak truthfully, acknowledge our faults, and seek forgiveness. It deepens as we learn to rejoice in another person's growth and carry one another's burdens.

Our unity is rooted in the Father and His Son and shaped by the truth Yeshua has given. This calls us to seek understanding together, allowing Scripture to examine our convictions and conduct.

Some conversations require patience. Some disagreements require careful study. Reconciliation may involve repentance, accountability, and the rebuilding of trust. We can ask the Father for wisdom to take the step that is ours without pretending that every difficulty has already been resolved.

Yeshua joins this prayer for unity to the world's recognition that the Father sent Him. Our life together bears witness. People hear what we proclaim, and they also see how we respond to one another.

When our words speak of the Father's love, our conduct should give people reason to understand that love more clearly. A gentle answer, an honest apology, or a faithful act of care can make our shared belonging visible.

For Returning to the Ancient Path Ministry, One Father • One Family • One Home expresses a hope that calls for daily practice. We begin close to where we are: with the people in our homes, those we serve beside, and the believers whose lives intersect with ours.

Consider one relationship that needs prayerful attention. Ask the Father to show you what love and faithfulness require of you. Perhaps the next step is to listen, apologise, offer help, or begin a conversation you have delayed.

Yeshua has prayed for His people to be one. May we receive that desire with humility and let it shape how we treat one another.

Pause and reflect

Where might pride, resentment, or impatience be hindering my care for another member of the Father’s family?

A response for today

Choose one practical act that strengthens a relationship: offer encouragement, listen without interrupting, acknowledge a fault, or give needed help. Pray for the person before you act.

Prayer

Father, thank You for including later believers in the prayer of Your Son. Teach me to honour the family into which You have brought me. Search my heart where pride or resentment has weakened my love. Give me wisdom for difficult relationships, courage to acknowledge my faults, and patience to listen well. Help us walk together in Your truth so that our life bears faithful witness to Yeshua, whom You sent. In His name, amen.

Day 7 — Living in the Father's Love



Scripture for the morning

"And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."
— John 17:26, KJV

Read John 17:24–26.

Morning Manna

We have spent these mornings listening to Yeshua's prayer. We have heard Him speak of knowing the Father, receiving His words, being kept, walking in truth, and becoming one.

At the close of His prayer, we hear His desire that the Father's love may dwell in His people.

"I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it."

Yeshua has made the Father known, and He speaks of continuing that work. He gives its purpose: "that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Pause over those words. Yeshua prays that the Father's love for Him may dwell in those who believe, together with His own presence in them.

Earlier in the prayer, He speaks of the Father's love for Him before the foundation of the world. His words open our hearts to something greater than our immediate circumstances. Before the concerns of this morning, before our struggles and unfinished work, there was the Father's love for His Son.

Receiving this love can reach into places we have learned to guard. We may be accustomed to measuring our worth by how useful we are, how much we accomplish, or how successfully we hold everything together. When we fall short, we may withdraw in shame or try harder to prove ourselves.

Yeshua's prayer gives us reason to turn toward the Father. We can bring Him our weakness, receive His correction, and ask for help to walk faithfully. His love gives us courage to be honest before Him.

As that love takes root in us, it shapes how we treat others. We begin to recognise where impatience has narrowed our compassion, where fear has made us controlling, or where hurt has made us slow to care.

We can bring these things before the Father too. We can ask Him to teach us how to love wisely—with truth, patience, and faithfulness.

Often, the response will be small enough to practise today. We may give someone our full attention, speak gently during a difficult moment, keep our word, or offer help without seeking recognition. Such choices give expression to the love we are receiving.

At the end of this collection, we are still at the beginning of a lifelong walk. Knowing the Father will continue to deepen as we attend to His Word, follow His Son, and respond to Him in the circumstances of life.

Return to Yeshua's prayer often. Let its words shape your prayers for your household, your relationships, and the people you serve.

Remain for a moment with its closing desire: that the Father's love may be in us, and Yeshua in us.

May that love find room in your heart. May it steady your trust, guide your obedience, and flow through your care for others.

Pause and reflect

Where do I need to receive the Father’s love more deeply, and how might that shape my response to someone today?

A response for today

Read John 17:26 slowly. Thank the Father for making Himself known through Yeshua. Choose one act of patient, faithful care through which to express His love today.

Prayer

Father, thank You for making Yourself known through Your Son. Help me receive the love of which Yeshua speaks. Where fear, shame, or hurt has shaped my responses, teach me to trust You and walk in Your truth. Let Your love take root in my heart and bear fruit in my home, my work, and my relationships. Keep drawing me into a deeper knowledge of You as I follow Yeshua. In His name, amen.