

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Greater Love

1. Begin by reading **John 15:13-17 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name, the Father will give you. [17] This is my command: Love each other.**

   What stands out to you from this Scripture?

   What might God be saying to you through this Scripture today?

2. Jesus says: **Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.** Do you agree that giving your life for another person is the greatest expression of love? What makes you answer this way?

   Many years later, John reflected on Jesus' words in **John 15**. **1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.** In our cultural context today, what does this look like?

   What are some of the ways that we can lay down our lives for each other? Give some examples from your Community Group of how group members have laid down their lives for each other.

3. Please read verse 14 & 15. **You are my friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything I learned from my Father I have made known to you.** What do you make of verses 14 and 15?

Share a story from your childhood about a close friendship or friendship gone wrong. What characteristics make a great friend? How might those characteristics affect your abiding friendship with Christ?

In the sermon, I shared this quote from FF Bruce, "*Jesus called us to be his friends. This is a tremendous offer. It means that we no longer need to gaze longingly at God from afar; we are not like slaves who have no right whatsoever to enter into the presence of the master. We are not like a crowd whose only glimpse of their king is in passing on some state occasion. Jesus offers this amazing thing, intimacy with God. God is no longer a distant stranger but our intimate friend.*" Share your thoughts about this quote?

4. Please read verse 16. **You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.** Are you comfortable with the idea that before you could choose Christ, He chose you? What are your thoughts on **Ephesians 1:4 For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world…?**

In verse 16, Jesus tells the disciples that He chose *and* appointed them. In the Gospels, we can see how and when Jesus chose His disciples. To appoint them is going a step deeper. The Greek word used here could also mean "established," or even "prepared." So, Jesus is saying I chose you and have prepared you to go and be fruitful for My kingdom. What are some of the ways that God has prepared you to do His work? Are you living out that preparation in a fruitful way? How so?

Do you think you also have the responsibility in partnership with God to prepare yourself? How might you prepare yourself to do God's will?

5. This passage begins and ends with the same command, **17 This is my command: Love each other.** Don't forget that in chapter 13, Jesus initially gave this same command, and then He said in **John 13:35. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.** Is it possible that Jesus values and prioritizes loving others more than you do? How might you align your values and priorities with Christ?

What are specific, tangible ways that you can love others? Especially those in your community group? Share some examples of how this is already happening.