

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. 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. John 15:13-15 (NIV)

You Are My Friend

What have I done for you? How completely have I shown you that I love you? Could I have done anything more significant for you than to lay down my life for you? Does that not say it all to you? Yes Lord, it does. Your death on my behalf says it all. You laid down your life for my sins. I was living far away from you as your enemy. Yet, you were willing to make me your friend by dying for me on the cross. That is amazing love displayed in the fullest possible measure. No other gift could be more valuable. No other sacrifice could have been more costly. You gave all that you had for me. I am so grateful and thankful for your love and the new life you have given to me.

How can I express my gratitude to you? What will my thankfulness cause me to do? What desire rises in my heart to express my love to you? **Those are very good questions. What answers come to your heart and mind?** I want to live my life fully for you. Not because I should or must, although both of those would be true. But your love for me has caused me to love you. I can't stop or limit this love. It is like a spring of fresh living water coming up and overflowing my soul. This love comes from you of that I am sure.

Out of this love in me comes a question. The question is, "What can I do for you today?" The desire of my heart is to know what you want and to do what you ask. I want to follow you and go wherever you lead me. Not the least bit reluctantly but with a joy filled heart because I love you.

The idea that you and I are friends is wonderful. I was happy to be called your servant because it is my joy to serve you. But to be your friend is beyond imagination. I want to shout, "the Lord and I are friends!" That thought needs to sink deeply into my heart and mind. **Yes, it does.** Will you help me to comprehend all that being your friend means? **Yes, I most certainly will.** I know that being your friend means that I will listen to you and do what you ask. **Will you?** Yes Lord, with a glad heart I will. **Very good, as you continue to do so, our friendship will deepen. You will grow in your understanding of my will and ways. Is that what you want?** Yes Lord, it is! **Follow me where I lead you.** Yes Lord, I will.

Lord, thank you for demonstrating your love to me by laying down your life for me. I will demonstrate my love for you by doing what you ask of me. It is my joy to follow you. Strengthen and show me how to live my life for you. Amen

Identity *Called You Friends*

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. 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.

NIV John 15:13-15

Identity *You Are My Friends*

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

NLT John 15:13-15

Identity *Called You Friends*

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

NRSV John 15:13-15

Identity *Called You My Friends*

No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends. You are My friends if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do. I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing (working out). But I have called you My friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. [I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him.]

AMP John 15:13-15

Identity *Called You Friends*

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. "You are My friends if you do what I command you. "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

NASB John 15:13-15

Identity *Called You Friends*

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

ESV John 15:13-15

Identity *Called You Friends*

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

NKJV John 15:13-15

Identity *Named You Friends*

This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father.

MSG John 15:13-15

Identity *You Are My Friends*

And here is how to measure it—the greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends; and you are my friends if you obey me. I no longer call you slaves, for a master doesn't confide in his slaves; now you are my friends, proved by the fact that I have told you everything the Father told me.

TLB John 15:13-15

Identity *Call You Friends*

The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I heard from my Father.

NCV John 15:13-15

Called You Friends

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Identity – John 15:13-15

In Context: *Read John 15*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. 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. John 15:13-15

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Greater love | has | no one | than this, | that he | lay down | his life | for his friends. | You are | my friends | if | you do | what I | command. | 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. John 15:13-15

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you for demonstrating your love to me by laying down your life for me. I will demonstrate my love for you by doing what you ask of me. It is my joy to follow you. Strengthen and show me how to live my life for you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why was Jesus Christ willing to lay his life down on the cross for you?

Why was it necessary for Jesus Christ to lay down His life for you?

What did Jesus Christ accomplish for you when He laid His life down for you?

What demonstrates your friendship and love for Jesus Christ?

How is being a friend of Jesus Christ different from being a servant of His?

What has Jesus Christ made known to you about your Heavenly Father?

What has your friendship with Jesus Christ given you the desire to do for Him?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Live as a friend of Jesus Christ who loves Him by listening to Him and doing all that He asks of you.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in our heart?)***

Have faith that Jesus Christ laid His life down on the cross for you because He loves you.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how your love for Jesus Christ is growing stronger as you follow Him.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of..

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

