

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 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. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. John 15:12-17 (NIV)

Bear Fruit

That is exactly what I want to do. **What do you want to do?** I want to go and bear fruit for your kingdom. I want to bring glory to your name. **Why is that? What is your motivation for wanting to serve me?** You made yourself known to me. You sought me out. You rescued me from a life without you. You laid down your life for me. You forgave my sins. You cleansed my unrighteousness. You made it so I could live in an intimate relationship with you. You chose me from out of the world. You adopted me into your family. You made me to be your child. You now call me your friend. I now love you because you first loved me. Could there be any greater motivation for me to love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength? Could anything give me a greater desire to go and do what you ask of me? I don't think so. My heart is filled with joy and gladness. You have given my life hope and meaning and purpose. It is my utmost and highest desire to be used by you. I am at your service. I want to know and do your will. I am ready to love others just like you loved me. I am ready to serve like you served and give like you gave. Point me in the right direction. Give me your assignment. Put me to work. **That is a very good request. That is an excellent prayer. Yes, I will use you. Yes, I will give you an assignment. Yes, I will make you able to bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name. My hand will guide you. My favor will rest on you. I will help you to know and do my will. I will guard and guide the course of your life. I will use to accomplish my purposes and fulfill my plans.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, thank you for choosing me. It is my desire to lay down my life for others. I want my life to be a powerful demonstration of your love in the darkness of this world. Help me to know and do your will. Help me to bear abundant fruit that will last for all eternity. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Called You Friends*

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 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. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

NIV

John 15:12-17

Becoming Like Christ *Called You Friends*

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 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. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

NLT

John 15:12-17

Becoming Like Christ *Called You Friends*

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for his 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. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

NRSV

John 15:12-17

Becoming Like Christ *Called You My Friends*

This is My commandment: that you love one another [just] as I have loved you. 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.] You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit *and* keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], He may give it to you. This is what I command you: that you love one another.

AMP

John 15:12-17

Becoming Like Christ *Called You Friends*

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. "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. "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. "This I command you, that you love one another.

NASB

John 15:12-17

Becoming Like Christ *Called You Friends*

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 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. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

ESV

John 15:12-17

Becoming Like Christ *Called You Friends*

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 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. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.

NKJV

John 15:12-17

Becoming Like Christ *Named You Friends*

This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. 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. "You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. "But remember the root command: Love one another.

MSG

John 15:12-17

Becoming Like Christ *You Are My Friends*

I demand that you love each other as much as I love you. 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. "You didn't choose me! I chose you! I appointed you to go and produce lovely fruit always, so that no matter what you ask for from the Father, using my name, he will give it to you. I demand that you love each other,

TLB

John 15:12-17

Becoming Like Christ *Call You Friends*

"This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you. 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. You did not choose me; I chose you. And I gave you this work: to go and produce fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

NCV

John 15:12-17

Called You Friends

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – John 15:12-17

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?)***

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

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

Lord, thank you for choosing me. It is my desire to lay down my life for others. I want my life to be a powerful demonstration of your love in the darkness of this world. Help me to know and do your will. Help me to bear abundant fruit that will last for all eternity. Amen

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

How is your life powerfully demonstrating God's love to others in this dark world?

What have you done in laying down your life for someone?

How has the Lord helped you to know and do His will?

How encouraging is it to know that the Lord chose you?

What assignment has the Lord given you to do so you can bear fruit for Him?

What lasting fruit has the Lord made you able to bear for His kingdom and glory?

How has the Lord been hearing and answering your prayers?

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

Allow the Lord to make you able to bear abundant and lasting fruit for Him.

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

Have faith that the Lord will make you able to bear abundant and lasting fruit for Him.

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

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has made you able to bear fruit for Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

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

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you go and do what the Lord asks of you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will go and do what you ask of me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what are you asking me to go and do for you?
