

a·bide

/ə'baɪd/(verb)

Have you ever heard that song, “I get by with a little help from my friends”? The truth is, all of us want deep, meaningful friendships in our lives. The greatest proof of true friendship is the level of trust. We trust only our true friends with our inmost secrets. In our study this week, we see that because of Christ’s love for His disciples, he declares they are no longer His servants, but His friends. How incredible! He gave them proof of this through His teaching and through His actions: He selflessly gave His life for them, as well as for us.

read: John 15:13-15

In what ways do you lay down your life for those in your closest circle of friends and family? _____

In verse 14, what does Jesus say we will do if we are His friends? _____

Do you feel as if you experience deep friendship with Jesus? If not, what is holding you back? _____

Where do you struggle with obedience? Why? _____

The life of Christ, in its meekness and self-sacrifice, revealed to us the true heart of God. By declaring we are no longer servants but friends, He invites us into the intimate “oneness” of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

What are the benefits we experience when we are in friendship with God? _____

What is the difference between a servant and a friend? _____

read: John 15:16

Jesus says He chose us and appointed us so that we:

1. _____ 2. _____

We chose Christ because he first chose us. How does that truth hit you today?

Take turns reading these Scriptures out loud. If you are by yourself, slowly read each one out loud.

“For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His son”
• *Romans 8:29*

“He Chose us before the foundation of the world that we would be holy and without blemish”
• *Ephesians 1:4*

“God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth”
• *2 Thessalonians 2:13*

“We are elect according to the foreknowledge of God in sanctification of the spirit for obedience”
• *1 Peter 1:2*

How do these passages hit you? What sticks out to you? _____

*May we feel a sense of humility as we understand the great love of God, that He would call us friends.
May we realize that if we are His friends who love Him, we will obey what He commands.
This includes loving others, making disciples, giving and many of the other things He commanded us to do.*

reflect:

- How are you personally doing with being a good friend to Jesus?
- How do you think we are doing as a church?
- What is one way you, and all of us, can become a better friend to Jesus?

prayer for the week:

*Lord, I want to live near You as a friend.
Please enable me to live in obedience and open my ears to hear all you have to say.
Thank you for choosing me to share Your likeness and fulfill your purpose by bearing lasting fruit.
Amen.*

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