

Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WITH JESUS

John 15:13-16

Stuart Jones - June 12, 2016



INTRODUCTION

As you read the gospels, it becomes very clear that people wanted to get close to Jesus. They wanted to be close enough to see Him, hear His words, and touch His garments. The closer they got, the closer they wanted to be. People wanted to be His friend.

Being a friend of Jesus was unlike any previous relationship. With Jesus, people found generosity, love, mercy, and forgiveness. His friends had fun. They were inspired. Their lives got better.

Jesus gave us the perfect relationship model. He welcomed all kinds of people into His life. He did so unselfishly. And lives were changed.

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Who was your best friend when you were a kid? Why would you give them the title childhood BFF?
2. Describe someone you would label a good friend. What qualities do they possess?

EVALUATE IT

1. Stuart explained that in our relationship with Jesus, "You are loved. I don't mean you are loved because of something you did right or something great about your personality." How is that different from our relationships with other people?
2. In John 15:16 Jesus says, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you..." Why did Jesus choose us? We have nothing to offer, so why does He love us so much?
3. Stuart said, "Don't miss the fact that in your friendship with Jesus, You are sent." What does that mean? Why does our relationship with Jesus lead to us being "sent"?
4. In John 15:16 Jesus said He appointed us to bear fruit that will last. What is the fruit that will last? Based on John 15:1-8, what is essential for us to produce fruit?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Would you describe Jesus as your friend? Why or why not?
2. Are you bearing the fruit that will last? If so, how? If not, what real tangible changes can you make right now to bear fruit that will last?

ILLUSTRATION

When you really have a friend, you will disregard personal sacrifice. If you have ever read Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*, there is a classic illustration of John 15:13. In fact, Dickens quotes it in the book.

The two people who become friends are Charles Darnay and Sydney Carton. Darnay is a young Frenchman who is thrown in a dungeon and faces the guillotine the next morning. Carton is a wasted lawyer who has finished his life, as it were, as a loose-living individual there in England. Carton hears of Darnay's imprisonment and through a chain of events he gets into the dungeon and he changes garments with Darnay who escapes. The next morning Sydney Carton makes his way up the steps that lead to the guillotine. And Dickens says, as he writes of this, "Greater love has no one than this, than one lay down his life for his friend." And that's a classic example of the ultimate in friendship. -Paul Lee Tan, Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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