

I Have Called You Friends

Warm-Up Questions:

- Who is your best friend? How and why did you become friends?
- We all desire to be intimately known by someone else. What is it about this that is both appealing but also terrifying?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus calls us **friends**? Is it surprising? Comforting? Unsettling? Why do you think that is?

READ: John 15:12-17

I. Jesus Dispenses Grace Without Demanding Perfection

- Do you demand perfection of your friends? How might Jesus' friendship towards us challenge the way you relate to your friends?

II. Jesus Loves His Friends Without Keeping Score

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. What are some things you tend to prioritize over or use as a substitute for love?
- What are some things you've done in your friendship to Jesus that, if done to others, would really hurt your friendship?
- How has friendship with Jesus "rubbed off on you?" How has it changed you? Where are you resisting his influence?

III. Jesus' Friendship Gives Us a Place At the Father's Table

- Where have you been wounded in friendship? How has this impacted the way you approach friendship?
- Describe the things you long for most in your friendship with Jesus?
- How might the kind of love Jesus displays towards us on the cross enable you to be more vulnerable in your relationships?

Go Deeper

Scripture as a whole reveals two primary characteristics of friendship: **self-disclosure and helpful presence**. How do these things flow from the character of God? In other words, how does he demonstrate these to us?

Read the following passages and discuss what they reveal about friendship: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, 27:5-6, 9, 17.

Sermon Discussion Questions--Leader's Copy
I Have Called You Friends
March 26th and 27th, 2022

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