



COMMUNITY GROUP YEAR-END REFLECTION | FRIENDSHIP (38)

June 14, 2026

John 15:12-17

PURPOSE

To discover and experience Jesus Christ in our midst
To cultivate mutually encouraging relationships
To participate in God's mission to the world

Discussion Question

- What was your favorite moment from your community group this year?

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:12-17

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No 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. ¹⁶You 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. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

BIBLE STUDY

Summary and Connection

Tim Keller once said that in the Bible, the two features of real friendship are constancy and transparency. "Real friends always let you in and never let you down." And the definition of a true friend perfectly describes the one who made us his friends: Jesus.

First, Jesus brings us all the way in. He holds back nothing of God's ultimate plan for us, and he leaves no questions unanswered about whether we are loved, whether we are saved, whether we are his. Nothing that we truly need to know remains unsaid between God and us. Jesus said to his disciples: "I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

Second, Jesus never lets us down. He lived for us, died for us, rose again for us, and is coming back for us. He has covered our past, our present, and our future, and he gives his Spirit to be with us until he returns. That's never letting us down. And he calls us to be his friends. Only two people in the entire Bible prior to Jesus were called friends of God: Abraham and Moses. In John 15, suddenly there are twelve friends of God. Now, there are billions.

Your community group is filled with friends of God! This is all because our friend — the one who always lets us in and never lets us down — chose us. Jesus chose us and gave us a mission: to love one another and to bear fruit that abides. "These things I command you, so that you will love one another." Where does this love come from, so that we will love one

another? From Jesus, our friend. He is the friend who makes all other friendships possible. In friendship with God, we are blessed to have these friendships with one another.

Questions:

In light of all of this, take time to discuss your group's successes and highlights from the year, as well as any challenges experienced.

How have you experienced the love of God and friendship with Christ through your time in your community group this year?

Each of these experiences, no matter how small, represents fruit that God has cultivated in your community group. How does that truth impact the way you view your community group going forward?

What mindsets, attitudes, and practices can you adopt to help your community group become more fruitful going forward?

Take some time to think about and pray about how you would like to see God move in your group next year.