

**“How to Forge Friendships”**  
***Forging Friendship: John 15:12-17***  
**Discussion Questions**

- **Ice Breakers:**
  - Making friends as an adult can be difficult. Describe how you made friends when you were a kid versus the challenge of making friends as an adult.
- **Jesus as a Good Friend**
  - Consider the life of Jesus and how he made friends. How did Jesus forge friendships with...
    - The 12 disciples?
    - With his inner circle of 3 (Peter, James, John)?
    - Sinners (Matthew 11:19)?
    - The group of women who followed him?
    - The 70 he sent out?
- **Read John 15:12-17**
  - How does Jesus describe friendship in this text?
    - Is he only talking to the 12 disciples or are we included as a friend of God? (*Notice how Jesus establishes the friendship in v 13 & 15*)
    - What characteristics in those two verses reveal Jesus as an unusually good friend?
  - What command is most often repeated in this text?
  - How does Jesus tell us we forge friendships? (v 12-13)
    - Love like Christ loved us
    - Lay down your lives for your friends
- **Jesus calls you a friend.... And then calls you to be a friend.**
  - How can we love our friends like Jesus loved us?
  - How can we lay down our lives for our friends like Jesus laid down his life for you?
- **Take the Initiative**
  - What verse in John 15 shows that Jesus took the initiative in establishing friendship first? (Also see 1 John 4:19)
  - What does it look like for you to take the initiative in your friendships?
- **Sacrifice for your friends**
  - Are you known as a generous friend?
    - With your time?
    - With your resources?
  - How can create margin for both planned and unplanned time with your friends?
- **Commit to Life in Community**
  - Jesus was committed to life in community (70/12/3). Are you committed to the same?
  - What does it look like to have a village?
  - What role does small group play in your commitment to community?