

# BAND OF BROTHERS



## MEMORIAL DAY 2024: BAND OF BROTHERS

Within Easy Company they had made the best friends they had ever had, or would ever have. They were prepared to die for each other. They found in combat the closest brotherhood they ever knew. They found selflessness. They found they could love the other guy in their foxhole more than themselves. They found that in war, men who loved life would give their lives for them. —*Band of Brothers* by Stephen Ambrose

**THE BIG IDEA:** When our relationship with God is what it should be, our love for others is what it ought to be.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What factors do you think have contributed to the increase in feelings of isolation and loneliness?
2. A recent study showed that over the past 50 years, people have increasingly experienced feelings of being isolated, invisible, and insignificant. Is that true about you? Does one of those words ring more true than the others? If so, which one and why?
3. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read John 15:10-17](#).*

<sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. <sup>16</sup> You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other. [John 15:10-17 \(NLT\)](#)

4. What stands out to you from this passage? Do any of your friends come to mind as you think about these verses? If so, who? And how so?
5. Chris & Jimmy said that there are four characteristics of true, meaningful friendships: 1) Personal sacrifice, 2) shared goals & values, 3) discussion of personal information, and 4) helping the other person succeed. Of all of these characteristics, which one comes naturally for you? Which one is a struggle?
6. How do verses 9 and 12 tie together? How is love the essential dynamic of the Christian life? How do verses 12-13 take Jesus' command to love even further than John 13:34-35?
7. Do you feel more like Jesus' slave or His friend? What helps develop the friendship?

## THINK ABOUT IT

Share some encouraging thoughts about what your group has meant to you in your life. How have you seen God use these gatherings to grow you as a Christ-follower? Dream together about what God might do with your group in the next few months.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

How might having the right friends help guide you to success? What's one thing you can do this week to appreciate the friends in your life that are making you a better person?

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13