



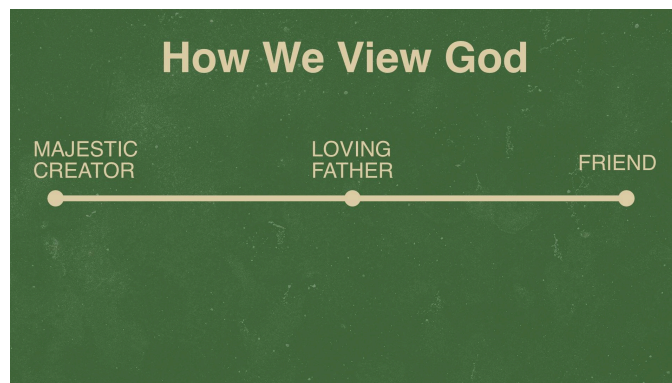
## Friendology

### Week four - "What a Friend We Have"

#### John 15:12-17

**Bottom line: Jesus invites us to know Him as friend, the most meaningful and intimate expression of being known.**

1. Read John 15:12-17. Friendship with Jesus and Others are intertwined in what Jesus says. Talk about how that impacts both friendships.
2. Considering the spectrum of how we view God, where do you land now? How has that changed for you over time? Do you find you tend to put God in only one of those views or are you able to relate to Him in all of them at different times?



3. In her book, *Freeing Jesus*, Diana Butler Bass says seeing Jesus as 'friend' is a maturity and gift of wisdom. Talk about what that means. Do you relate to Jesus as friend? If not, talk about why that may be.
4. Read John 15:14 again as well as Matthew 11:28-30. Talk about the type of obedience and loyalty Jesus is asking for? How is obeying commands different from being a servant?
5. Jesus being a friend to sinners was levied as a criticism but actually revealed something beautiful about Him. Take some time to evaluate yourself and talk about how being a friend with Jesus can shape how you are a friend to others. (Yep, even them)
  - a. Why are some people more difficult for you to befriend?
  - b. Do you find that one's 'sin' makes it difficult for you to befriend and love them?
6. Close with a time of prayer. Take time to meditate on becoming a deeper friend with Jesus and one who, like Him, is a 'friend of sinners.'