

SELECTIVE CIRCLES
myCircle #1

John 15:12-17

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

Matthew 12:48-50; 1 John 3:11

_____ relationships with people who are
_____.

Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

Everyone has a circle. Your circle is made up of the important people in your life to whom you give your best. Did you choose yours carefully? Jesus chose his circle. They were a diverse group that Jesus brought together, and He commanded them to love each other. This message will help us assess our circle in light of Jesus' call on our lives.

GETTING STARTED

1. Talk about a circle of friends you chose, where it didn't work out the way you had envisioned.
2. Looking back over your life, what were some of the criteria you have used to choose your circle? (need for acceptance, sports, common hobbies/interests, business, mutual friends, drinking/partying etc...) What was the outcome of those circles? How did they impact you, and the direction and quality of your life?

BIBLE IDEA

3. See John 15: 12-17. Jesus put a diverse group of men in a circle. He gives them a mission and he tells them to love one another in the same way He has loved them. What was the common bond for this new "circle"? What did these men have to leave behind, and how did their thinking have to change in order to embrace this new "circle?" How does it impact you to consider, that as a Jesus follower, your circle needs to be bigger than just your family?
4. How might the 1st century Jesus movement have been different, if Jesus had not called these disciples to be in a circle, but instead they operated in isolation, or from different circles? What was Jesus' strategy? How does His approach apply to us? What would you say to someone who says "Jesus and me is all I need"?
5. In what ways does being a part of a circle of Jesus followers help you: a.) Learn more about God? (Eph 4:13) b.) Learn more about yourself? (Eph 4:15) c.) Learn more about His will? (Col 1:9) d.) Be supported to live the life He's called you to live? (Eph 4:16)

NEXT STEPS

6. Do some of the barriers to you experiencing a growing relationship with Jesus involve your current circle of friends? What is God asking you to do?
7. What would it look like for you to prioritize your relationship with people who are following Christ? What might you need to change?