

Introduction

Today we're exploring the theme of **Friendship**, focusing on the extraordinary words of Jesus in John 15, where He says to all who follow him:

"You are my friends."



Let's begin with a simple question to help us reflect on what we value in friendship.

"If you could be best friends with any fictional character, who would it be—and why?"

(If fictional feels too tricky, feel free to choose a real person, living or from the past.)

- Give everyone a chance to share their choice and the reason behind it.
- After everyone has shared, take a moment to reflect as a group on some of the **key qualities** that people mentioned—what do we look for in a true friend?

Bible Reflection: John 15:13–17

Let's now hear Jesus' words about friendship.

1. Have **two people** take turns reading **John 15:13–17**, with a short pause in between. (*Reading it twice slowly helps us listen deeply.*)
2. Invite the group to **listen attentively** and then share **anything that stood out**—this might be:
 - an encouragement
 - a challenge
 - a surprise
 - an instruction
 - or anything else that speaks to them personally



- Keep the feedback short (1 min. max per person) and make sure **everyone has the chance to share**, even if just a sentence or two.

Jesus was speaking to his closest followers—those who would soon carry on his mission without him physically present. In this moment, he called them to remain close to him, to continue living out his purpose, and to care deeply for one another. He was calling them to relationships marked by **deep trust, deep respect, and deep loyalty**.

Now take a moment to reflect personally:

- **Are you part of a team**—perhaps in the church, a Christian organisation, or a ministry?
- What might it look like for you and your team to:
 - **Stay close to Jesus,**
 - **Live out his agenda,** and
 - **Show deep care for one another?**

Allow a time of silence (1-2min.). Encourage each person to quietly ask God: **"Lord, what are you saying to me today?"**

As we close, take these truths to heart—both as **an encouragement** and a **challenge** from Jesus himself:

- **"I call you my friends."** In this, Jesus reveals your true **identity**—not just as servants, but as those he has brought close and entrusted with his heart.
- **"Follow me..."** Jesus promises that as you walk with him, he will help you **know, understand, and live** within the purposes of your maker. He will teach you everything he knows of the Father.
- **"I choose you."** You've been chosen—not randomly, but personally. Like being selected for a team, a task, or a mission. Jesus has chosen you to be part of his great project of redemption in the world.
- **"I appointed you..."** To be appointed is to be given real **authority and responsibility**. You are not just invited to observe—you are **empowered to act** on his behalf, with his strength and his guidance.
- **You are an extension of Jesus' Kingdom work.** When you act in alignment with his heart—doing what he would do—**your prayers carry weight**. You can trust that the Father hears and responds.
- **You matter deeply to God.** Because you have been chosen, appointed, and sent, your actions have a significance that **goes beyond today**, beyond this year—even beyond your lifetime.
They carry the potential for **eternal impact**, as long as you remain rooted in the intentions and purposes of Jesus.

Prayer to distribute to each member of the group. Encourage your members to use the prayer regularly.

Jesus, thank You for calling me your friend.

You have brought me close, and entrusted me with your heart. Help me to walk with you daily—to follow you, learn from you, and live out the purposes of my Maker.

Thank You for choosing me.

Not by chance, but with love and intention. You've placed me on your team, in your mission, and I say yes to the work you've prepared for me.

Thank You for appointing me.

You give me real purpose and real authority. Help me act with your strength, speak with your wisdom, and love with your heart.

Make me an extension of Your Kingdom.

May my actions reflect your will, and may my prayers align with what you long to see in the world. Father, hear and respond as I serve in Jesus' name.

I matter to you—because you have chosen me, appointed me, and sent me.

May my life bear fruit that lasts beyond today, beyond this year, beyond my lifetime—fruit with eternal impact, as I stay rooted in your love and purpose.

Amen.