

Title: Invitation to Hope “Invitation to Sacrifice & love” – John 15:12-17

Big Idea: Bear fruit in loving others with the same sacrificial love that Jesus loves us with

What in the message stood out to you?

What questions do you have?

1. The Command to Love- John 15:12-13,17

This is a reiteration of the “new” command that Jesus gave in John 13: 34-35. Read that passage together. What do you think is “new” about this command?

Ephesians 4:2 tells us to bear with one another in love. In what ways do you find it challenging to love others, especially other believers? Does thinking about the sacrifice of Jesus help to encourage you to want to love better?

Verse 13 foreshadows the ultimate sacrifice Jesus will make, while verse 12 calls on us to love like Jesus loved us. While it might not involve literally dying for others, what might loving others like Jesus look like?

2. The Call to Friendship- John 15:15-16a

Here we see both the intimacy and initiative of Jesus. He tells the disciples that they have moved from being servants to being friends and the shift has happened because he has brought them in close by revealing to them what the Father had revealed to Jesus. Instead of just obeying orders, they now are given the responsibility of knowing what the mission is all about.

Can you think of a situation where knowing the “why” behind a task made it easier to persevere in that particular task?

Read Mark 1:16-21. Jesus is the initiator when calling people to himself. What about that gives you comfort?

3. The Commission to Bear Fruit- John 15:16b

Jesus has done more than just make us his friends. He has brought us into his mission and made us friends with a purpose. John 16 says “I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide”.

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and John 4:31-38. What parallels do you notice with John 15:16?

What are some barriers that prevent us from being more evangelistically minded? How might we encourage each other to overcome those barriers and fears?

After Jesus tells us to go and bear lasting fruit, he points us to prayer. Why do you think that is?

What does it mean to ask things the name of Jesus?

“Next Steps” Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

WITH GOD:

Ask him to make you bold for whatever the next step in the mission is for you whether that’s inviting someone to Easter, sharing the gospel with a friend or coworker or something else.

WITH OTHERS:

Share with your spouse, a friend, or someone from your growth group or a bible study, someone you know that isn’t yet a friend with Jesus, and pray for them together, that God might show himself mighty to save.

ON MISSION:

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, says he has sheep that are scattered all over the earth, and that they will hear his voice. So be on mission this week and ask someone you know who doesn’t already know Jesus to come to church with you next week for Easter. We have copies of *More Than a Carpenter* available to you this weekend. It’s a great, small little book by Josh and Sean McDowell that does a great job giving the evidence for why Christianity is true. Sean will be the one coming to do the Apologetics Conference with us in early May. I’d encourage you to grab 2 copies, give one to a friend that doesn’t know Christ and ask them to read it together with you. It’s a great resource that can help open doors to some great conversations.

One other opportunity especially for those of you with young children, our Children’s Ministry has put together some Easter Party boxes that you can grab out in the foyer with the idea being that you invite another family that doesn’t know the Lord to participate with you. It’s got all the plans and activities right there in the box and is another great way to invite people into friendship with Jesus.