



# FCA Elementary Choose

This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you, No one has greater Love than that: To lay down His life for His friends. John 15:12-13

## Workout: Our Friends

Picture this: You just played a long game on a hot afternoon. You played your hardest on the field and now you are the thirstiest you have ever been in your life. You go to the concession stand with money your parent gave you and buy the most beautiful, large slushie. It has little pieces of ice crushed and slushed along with the tangiest and most thirst quenching flavor. You take one sip, and then another, and then another. You run back to the field and tell your teammate they just HAD to try it. Your teammate drinks some too and you both agree, it is the best slushie you've ever tasted.

You could not keep it to yourself because it was just that good--you loved it that much!

The first part of our scripture for today is Jesus speaking: "This is my command; Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

How has Jesus loved us? The last part of the verse answers the question; "No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:3). That is what Jesus did for us. He laid down His life for us by dying on the cross to save us from our sins. His death made it possible for us to be free from sin and to have a relationship with God the Father, Jesus. Jesus' life had value but our lives were more value to Him than His own. Because He loves us that much, we are to share that love with everyone else.

Think back to the delicious slushie. You could have kept it to yourself. Remember, you sipped on it for a good while and it was quite valuable to you. But your

## Warm Up

What are some things that you love?

Why do you love them?

Who are some people that you love?

What makes you love them?

How do you choose your friends?

How do you decide who is NOT your friend?



Your teammate was thirsty too, and their parent could not go to the game that day, so they did not have money to buy a drink. You sharing your slushie with your teammate is one way we can live out the verse Jesus is teaching us. You loved that slushie, but you loved your friend more than that. So you shared.

If we bring Jesus into this, you are at the concession stand after a long, hot game. You do not have money. There is not a water fountain, and there are no coolers or drinks. You are so thirsty that you can't take another step or play another game. You are in line, wanting that ice-cold water so badly, but knowing you do not have money to pay for it, you walk away. A teammate comes running up to the concession stand with the most beautiful dollar you have ever seen and says, "Here, take this!" To make the story even crazier, it's the teammate you were unkind to throughout the whole game. Wow! Later, you find out it was their last dollar, and they chose to give it to you so you could have a drink.

That is what it looks like to lay down your life for your friends. That is what Jesus did for us. We could not do anything to buy or earn forgiveness for our sins, but what we can do is accept Jesus' free gift. And when we accept that gift, the refreshing water flows into the dry parts of our hearts!

What would it look like for you to love others like Jesus loved you? Maybe for you it means not trying to be first in everything. Maybe it looks like giving your friend a chance before you take over. Maybe it looks like helping a teammate get better at a skill you have already mastered instead of moving on to learn another one. Maybe it looks like sharing your slushie with someone who really needs it. Because the love of Jesus is so good, we just have to share it!

## Connect

You are my friends if you do what I command you...This is what I command you: Love one another. John 15:14; 17

## Warm Up Simon Says

Enjoy a game of Simon Says. Do we always want to do as our friends do or act?

When our friends are not acting in a way that honors Jesus, what should YOU do?



## THE FOUR

The Four is the Gospel explained in four simple truths

- God loves you
- Sin separates you
- Jesus rescues you
- Will you trust in Jesus?

## Workout: His Friend

There is always a popular kid on the team, right? Someone who is easily athletic, talented in all the skills, and always does well no matter what. Being friends with the popular kid does something to boost our hearts.

Do you have lots of friends? Are you a good friend? Here is the coolest thing: Jesus wants to be OUR friend. Jesus—the Son of God, the Creator of every cell in every being—wants to be YOUR friend! How cool is that!

Imagine you are struggling in your sport and another kid on the team offers to help you. You form a friendship, and that helps you as an athlete and as a teammate. Now you can be that friend and help other teammates too.

Have you ever had a friend like that in your life who greatly influenced you? This is what Jesus is for us. Being His friend completely changes our lives and our whole mindset. Being friends with Jesus helps us to grow and not feel alone. It helps us treat others how we want to be treated. He influences us as we spend time with Him. He is the cooler, older kid on the team, and He wants a relationship with YOU!

What does this look like? Jesus says, “You are my friends if you do what I command you... This is what I command you: Love one another.” (John 15:14, 17) Command is another word for instruct. What do coaches and teachers do? They instruct you on your sport and on your lessons. Jesus is simply saying here, “You are my friends if you do what I instruct you.”

How do we spend time with God? We spend time with God through prayer, reading our Bibles, and talking to Him throughout the day. As we spend time with Him, we will want to be like Him. We are Jesus’ friends if we do what He commands us to do. One of those commands is to love others.

## Wrap Up

How will you love a teammate like Jesus loves you?

How does it make you feel that you have a friend like Jesus who wants to be there for you?

What teammate could you love like this today?

What person in your life could you influence and mentor?

## Cool Down

When we are on Jesus’ team, we should choose to share how incredible that is with others (John 15:12-17).

1. What does this Scripture say about God?
2. What does it say about people?
3. By God’s grace, how will you obey God’s Word this week?
4. Whom will you share this Scripture passage with?
5. What are you thankful for?
6. What are you struggling with?
7. How did you obey last week?
8. Whom did you share God with?