



Sermon Series Title:

- ▶ Know Greater Love - Life WITH Jesus . . . *Jesus's Farewell Message!*

Scriptures and Dates:

- ▶ John 13
- ▶ John 14
- ▶ John 15
- ▶ John 16
- ▶ John 1

Description:

- ▶ Do you *know* Jesus? Knowing facts about Him is one thing, but truly following Him means experiencing His love-inspired call to obedience and embracing His wisdom and guidance in your life. In other words, Life With Jesus is Life For Jesus!

On the night before He was crucified, Jesus invited His disciples into a deep relationship with the triune God—and His invitation stands for us, too.

In this *seven-part series, Francis Chan explores **John 13–17**, a passage rich in promises, commands, and eternal truths. He reminds us that we aren't called to a part-time faith—we were made to know, walk with, and commune with God throughout each day He has allowed us to live.

Sessions and Dates:

- ▶ Session 1: Christ Prepares His Disciples. Sunday, March 2, 2024
- ▶ Session 2: Christ Reveals the Father. Sunday, March 9, 2024
- ▶ Session 3: God with Us. Sunday, March 16, 2024
- ▶ Session 4: Abiding in Christ. Sunday, March 23, 2024
- ▶ Session 5: Better with the Spirit. Sunday, March 30, 2024
- ▶ Session 6: Christ's Prayer for Us. Sunday, April 6, 2024
- ▶ * Closing Session: Know Greater Love - True Spirit-Led Discipleship. Sunday, April 13, 2024.

Session 1: Christ Prepares His Disciples.

Sunday, March 2, 2024

Time: 40 minutes

Opening:

- ▶ **FW Questions:** What is the best invitation you have ever received? Did you accept the invitation? Why or why not?

- Invitations are exciting. They let us know that someone wants to spend time with us and give us access to a party, event, or experience we may not have been able to attend otherwise. But sometimes, scheduling conflicts or personal reasons keep us from accepting our invitations.

Jesus extends an invitation to us, but we must decide whether to accept His call to follow Him or remain in our comfort zones. In this series, the Holy Spirit will reveal what it means to follow Jesus and the vibrant new life that comes from trusting God. The only decision you need to make is whether you will follow by faith wherever He leads you.

To start our study of John 13–17, also known as the Upper Room Discourse, we will dig into John 13 and Jesus’s example of loving one another.

Main Idea:

- ▶ **FW:** The truths of God are both an invitation into the fullness of life Jesus promises and a challenge to leave behind all our comfortable half-loves.

Mind/Heart/Life Change:

- ▶ **FW:** That we would be *rooted and established* in Christ and His love, so that we can have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to *grasp* how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to *know* His love that surpasses knowledge—that we would be *filled* to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Read:

- ▶ **FW:** John 13:1-17, 34-35

AV Team: Watch Video -

Watch Session 1: Christ Prepares His Disciples (15 minutes).

Group Discussions:

- ▶ **Group Leader Reads:** Francis began this session with a challenge: God desires to take you deep into the riches of truth, nurturing your faith and providing you with a greater experience of His presence in your life. Yet, we frequently prefer to remain in spaces of spiritual comfort. *Why do you think it can be challenging for you to embrace uncertainty or to live 'by faith'?*
 - **GL:** Before we explore Jesus's message to his disciples, it's essential to understand the context of this passage. First, let's consider Jesus's heart toward His disciples.
Read John 13:1.
- ▶ **GL:** God loves us more deeply than we often dare to acknowledge. We recognize that God's love is a fundamental truth, yet inside, we may question whether He truly loves us, flaws and all. What do you think God sees when He looks at you? *Do you picture Him as disappointed and angry, or do you see Him as loving you? Why?*
- ▶ **GL:** When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He also modeled how we should love one another. Love is more than a fluttering feeling or mere words; love should push us to serve one another. **Do you think it is possible to love someone without serving them? Why, or why not?**
 - Read 1 John 2:3-6; 3:16-18

Last Word:

- ▶ **FW:** God loves us deeply and demonstrated His love through Jesus, Who addressed our ultimate need by dying in our place so that we might be rescued.

In light of His grace and love, He asks us to love one another in the same way He has loved us, serving each other with eagerness and humility.

It is time to leave the comfortable faith and actively love and forgive one another. God is waiting with arms full of blessings, eager for you to embrace His most profound truths and know Him better.