

True Friendship

1 Samuel 20:1-17, 30-42

Learning about true friendship through observing David's relationship with Jonathan.

What qualities do you appreciate most in a friend?

1 Samuel 18:1-4 (ESV)

1As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. 3Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 4And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

1. Describe Jonathan's feelings for David.
2. Have ever felt an almost instant bond to a new friend? If so, what are some reasons you believe you felt such a bond?

1 Samuel 20:1-17

3. What impresses you about Jonathan's and David's love for each other?
4. How does their love express itself in their commitment to each other?

1 Samuel 20:30-42; 2 Samuel 1:25-27

5. How does Jonathan's experience with Saul demonstrate some of the cost of friendship?
6. In what other ways can friendship be costly?
7. What do we learn about the level of intimacy between Jonathan and David?
(1 Samuel 20:41-42; 2 Samuel 1:25-27)

8. Do you think it is more difficult for women or for men to achieve that kind of intimacy in friendship?

9. What factors enhance or inhibit intimacy in a relationship?

10. If you could pick one area in which you'd like your friendship with your closest friend to be more like Jonathan's and David's, what would it be?

“We are physically detached from each other... One survey revealed that seven in ten do not know their neighbors. As many as one-third of Americans admit to frequent periods of loneliness...” George Gallup, Jr.

Why are friendships not just a luxury but a necessity in life?

Ask the Lord to help you be more like David and Jonathan in your relationships with others.