

Questions for Small Group or Individual Study/Reflection
Unlocking the Old Testament Sermon Series ~ David & Jonathan
“A Story of an Incredible Friendship”
I Samuel 20 & I Chronicles 11:10-19
Sermon for October 11, 2009

After escaping from King Saul’s attempts to kill him, David now goes to his special friend Jonathan. David fears for his life and Jonathan (even though not totally convinced his father has plans to harm David) commits to David, “I’ll do whatever you say to keep you safe because you are my friend and I care about you.”

1. Who in your life could you call 24/7 about anything? Do you know anyone who would “have your back” in a difficult life circumstance? What do you think led to David and Jonathan forming their powerful friendship? What was their secret of a true and lasting friendship?
2. I Sam. 20:2 – How do you think that Jonathan is unaware of the most recent attempts on David’s life (19:9-24) and is assuming Saul’s oath of 19:6 still stands?
3. In 20:6 David gives Jonathan the “reason” for not sitting at the table of the King. How do you deal with David’s instruction here? Half-truth/Lie/Life or death decision???
4. 20:13 – recognizing that David is now God’s chosen king, Jonathan gives him allegiance over and above his allegiance to his father. Why do you think Jonathan has reached this point with David/his father? Where was King Saul’s support system or why do you think he did not have a trusted inner circle?
5. 20:30ff – Jonathan “loses everything” in his dad’s eyes – and almost his life...But Jonathan kept his covenant promise with David the next morning. Do you think Jonathan got much sleep that night? Do you think Jonathan did the right thing by staying loyal to David?
6. How do feel about having a close and trusted friend? What issues of trust do you deal with? Pray about asking the Lord to show you a “real friend” (and/or to help you in evaluating your current friendships) that you can begin building a deeper trust/relationship with.

7. Personal Application – Prayer focus for the week:

Additional Scripture references:

In I Samuel 15 we learn of Saul’s disobedience to the Lord and that the Lord regretted that he had made Saul King over Israel (v.35). I Samuel 16 begins to narrate David’s rise to power and Saul’s fall from power and his death. I Samuel 17 (David & Goliath); I Samuel 18 tells us of the beginning of David and Jonathan’s friendship where the scriptures tells us that “Jonathan loved [David] as his own soul.” We also learn of the beginning of Saul’s jealousy of David. I Samuel 19, after making a sworn oath to Jonathan, “As the Lord lives, [David] shall not be put to death.” (v. 6), a harmful spirit from the Lord came upon Saul, and Saul is persistent in wanting to kill David. Reading these chapters in advance of I Samuel 20 will help “set the scene” (and the context) for I Samuel 20. In I Chronicles 11:10-19, we can learn how King David surrounded himself with good people with outstanding qualities. Why could David not drink the water from the mighty men?

See also: Proverbs 18:24; and Barnabas in Acts 9:27ff – advocate for Saul - when even Jesus’ disciples were afraid and doubted the God’s conversion of Saul (persecutor) to the Apostle Paul (proclaimer).