

As 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. - 1 Samuel 18:1

## I. AN OASIS IN THE DESERT

- In fleeing from King Saul, David retreated to the wilderness of the Judean desert. Many searched for him, but only Jonathan found him (1 Sam. 23:16).
- The biblical writer stresses that Jonathan, David's friend, is also Saul's son (1 Sam. 14:1-5, 43-46; 18:1-5).
- Faithfulness is the key to David and Jonathan's friendship. A shared faithfulness to God, and then, as an outgrowth of that commitment, faithfulness to one another (1 Sam. 20).
- Jonathan comes to David in his distress, and there he puts David's hand in God's hand (1 Sam. 23:16).

## II. FAITHFUL FRIENDSHIPS IN THE LORD

- Friendships are based on faithfulness, humility, and self-sacrifice. Jonathan and David's had all three (1 Sam. 18:1-5; Matt. 18:1-5; John 15:12-17).
- Friendships are based on truthfulness as well. True friends speak into each other's lives. Acquaintances find offense when confronted truthfully, even if it is done in love (1 Sam. 20:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:33-34; Eph. 4:15-16).
- Christian marriages and friendship should go together. As should Christian families, partnerships, church relationships, etc. There is strength in friendship (Eccl. 4:9-12).

## III. WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

- Jesus commands us to love one another. This is what true friendship is built upon (John 15:12).
- Jonathan's friendship with David, the Lord's Anointed, is a shadow of the "friendship" we can have with Jesus, the Lord's Anointed (John 15:13-15).
- Friendship with Jesus is one-way. We are Jesus' friend if we follow him. Jesus demonstrates his love for us in his self-sacrifice (John 15:13).

**KNOW:** Jonathan's commitment to David, who would replace him as crown prince of Israel, is counterintuitive. His commitment to the Lord was greater than his commitment to his own welfare. Jonathan is a reflection of the greater love and self-sacrifice of Christ.

**DO:** Find a friend in Jesus. Then practice Christian friendship.

**Suggested Reading:**

*Made for Friendship: The Relationship that Halves our Sorrows and Doubles our Joys* by Drew Hunter  
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

**For Children:**

*Prince Caspian* by C.S. Lewis  
(Available in the LifePoint Children's Library)

*Thanks for Being My Friend* by Lois Johnson  
(Available in the LifePoint Children's Library)

**Questions/Discovery Points for  
Life Groups/Families**

**Please Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5 and 23:15-18**

1. Why does the story of Jonathan and David resonate with so many people?
2. What stands out most in their friendship?
3. Read 1 Samuel 23:15-18 again. What, do you think, was Jonathan's hope for the future?
4. In what ways does Jonathan's life reflect the life of Jesus?
5. What are the parameters of Jesus' love for his own disciples? (see John 15:12-17)
6. How do we appropriate this love of Jesus? What does it mean for us?
7. What are your application points from these passages?