

Week 1: The positive influence of friends – Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:1-23)

1. Intro: Jonathan – a man of Faith and Action

1 Samuel 14:12-14 – smites a Philistine garrison. **HE HAD THE FAITH TO ACT!! Faith is not passive.**

Jonathan tried to lead by example without embarrassing his father (see **14:1**). He did not try to upstage his dad (ex. Agag incident – let Samuel work; Goliath incident – let David work)

1Sam.14:45 – the people acknowledge his greatness – he wrought WITH God!!! (i.e. working together)

2. Jonathan’s love for David

“A friend that sticks closer than a brother” (Pro. 18:24) **Eliab (1Sam. 17:28) vs Jonathan (1Sam. 18:1)**

1 Sam. 18:1 – “After he spoke...” Jonathan’s love of David based on his faith demonstrated in the defeat of the giant, and his speaking forth Truth and his implicit trust in God.

1Sam.14:6 “save by many or by few” = **1Sam.17:36-37** – Jonathan and David had the same faith!!

Note: Saul said to David ‘you’re mine’ 1 Sam.18:2, whereas Jonathan had said ‘I’m yours’ v1!

Do you ‘take’ friends into your life based on what the benefit of the relationship will be for you?

OR do you ‘give’ yourself freely to others??

(And Jonathan KNEW someone was coming – chosen of God – to replace his father 1 Sam 13:13; 15:28 – and he was sure it was David – and he felt no jealousy! Jonathan graciously gives up his own position! He had MORE to lose than Saul!)

The three people who “loved” David... Saul, Jonathan and Michal → which one was true love?

If you are in any relationship strictly for what you can get out of it, that relationship will be short lived, fruitless and likely end bitterly!

If you GIVE freely of yourself, you will find it is more blessed to give than to receive! Acts 20:35

Note: David & Jonathan’s friendship was NOT ‘two-way’ all the time. It was Jonathan that took the initiative to forge the friendship, nurture it, and see it through.

3. True Friendship 1 Sam 19:1-7

1Sam.19:2-3 – Jonathan warns David. This would not have been easy to do – Jonathan loved and respected his father too (need proof - he died with him!). But he put ‘God’ above his family!

1Sam.19:4-5 – he has the courage to face his father (on behalf of his friend!) – and has a positive influence. (Note: Jonathan makes his appeal based on David’s character – without reference to himself i.e. He didn’t say ‘please do this for me dad...’. This was an encouragement to David to hear these words!)

1Sam.19:6-7 – peace restored (for a time).

4. 1 Sam 20 – David and Jonathan’s plan to test Saul’s motives

1 Sam. 20:1 David goes to his friend in time of need

v.4 Jonathan completely submitted to David’s plan (margin) - **he listened first!** - and then added his own advice – AFTER listening and taking David’s concerns seriously!! (v. 11-23)

v.23 – “BETWEEN” – God was at the CENTRE of their relationship!!! (see **Ecc. 4:9-12**)

Note: This caused strain in Jonathan’s own house (he put others needs above his own!)

v.30-34 – Jonathan was angry because Saul had shamed David.

He had just dodged a javelin thrown at him by his father, and he is thinking about David!!

v.41-42 – for all they knew, this may have been their last meeting.

5. 1Sam 23:16-18 – Jonathan seeks out his friend, and strengthens him!

Note: Saul was hunting David with MANY men searching! But could not find him. Yet Jonathan can!

If ever you needed evidence for the greatness of this man, here he is strengthening and helping the man after God's own heart!

Searching out and seeking those in need – in person, email, phone, text!

Heb. 10:24-25 – provoke to love and good works.

1Thes 5:11 – edify one another

6. Jonathan's death and David's reaction

2Sam. 1:17-27 - are more testimony to the influence Jonathan had on David.

Summary:

1. David & Jonathan had an intense friendship, even though they were not together all that much!
(The Truth compensates for physical barriers such as time, distance, age, etc.)

2. God is the 'third' partner (at the centre of a relationship) that makes the unbreakable 'threefold cord'!

Seek to BE the kind of friend Jonathan was ... and in doing so you will have friends for eternity!

Bible Marking Sheet - David's Friends and Foes

Class 1: Jonathan

1. The Basis of Friendship

1 Samuel 18:1 – "After he spoke..." Jonathan's love for David was based on hearing David's conviction of faith.

In 1 Samuel 14:6 Jonathan said God can "save by many or by few". This sentiment echoed by David in 1 Samuel 17:36-37.

Jonathan and David had the same faith!!

2. True Love is selfless – NOT selfish!

Saul, Michal, AND Jonathan all 'loved' David! (Same word)

See 1 Samuel 16:21 (Saul); 18:1 (Jonathan); 18:20, 28 (Michal)

Only Jonathan's love was truly selfless and therefore endured!

3. Friends keep promises no matter what!

David & Jonathan 'made a covenant' three times: 1 Samuel 18:3; 20:16; 23:18 – friendship based on the Truth is VITAL!

God was at the CENTRE of their relationship! (1 Samuel 20:23)

Seek to BE the kind of friend Jonathan was ... and in doing so you will have friends for eternity!