

Faithful Friends Sunday School Lesson

Today's HOPE (main point): God keeps His promises.

We've been talking about friendship this month. Who can tell me something they remember from what we've studied? (possible answers...Jesus is our faithful friend; Jonathan and David were friends; Jonathan gave David his robe, sword, belt, and bow; we put on Christ's robe of righteousness when we are baptized; we become like the people we hang around the most, etc...)

We have another lesson today from the friendship between Jonathan and David. Remember that they made a covenant together when Jonathan gave his robe, sword, belt and bow to David. We read about that in 1 Samuel 18. Let's look at another passage that tells us more about their covenant.

We read part of this before, in 1 Samuel 20. Jonathan was going to find out if his father, King Saul, truly intended to harm David.

Let's read 1 Samuel 20: 12-17. I'm going to read and you can follow along or just listen. Listen for what Jonathan wants David to promise.

12 Then Jonathan said to David, "I swear by the Lord, the God of Israel, that I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know? **13** But if my father intends to harm you, may the Lord deal with Jonathan, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away in peace. May the Lord be with you as he has been with my father. **14** But show me unfailing kindness like the Lord's kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed,



15 and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth.” **16** So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord call David’s enemies to account.” **17** And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

It seems as though Jonathan is adding to the covenant he made with David. What does he want David to promise? (That David will not kill him or his family.)

Why would Jonathan have David make that promise to him? (take answers)

It was customary that when new kings came into power, they killed all remaining family members from the previous king's family line. That would protect the new king from anyone trying to overthrow him or claim their right to the throne.

Jonathan recognizes that the kingdom is going to be taken away from his father and given to David. He wants to protect his children and two more times he asks David to promise not to kill them. At their last goodbye, Jonathan says:

1 Samuel 20: 42 Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.



As time goes on, there is war between Saul's armies and David's. Saul and Jonathan are killed and the battles intensify. Let's read 2 Samuel 4:4:

4 (Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became disabled. His name was Mephibosheth.)

Many years later, after David had become a great king over Israel, he remembers his covenant with Jonathan. Let's read 2 Samuel 9:

David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 2 Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

"At your service," he replied.

3 The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"

Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet."

4 "Where is he?" the king asked.

Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."

5 So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.



6 When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.
David said, "Mephibosheth!"

"At your service," he replied.

7 "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table."

11 So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.

I'm sure that seemed crazy to David's men. But David was honoring the covenant he made with Jonathan all those years before.

This is yet another part of this story that points us to Jesus. Just as David kept his promise to Jonathan, so God keeps His promises to us. We could do a whole other lesson on all the promises of God, but let's focus on this: we will someday, like Mephibosheth, eat at the King's table in heaven.

Matthew 8:11 says, I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

And Luke 22:29-30 says, And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom.

There are many more verses we could look at. But I think there are a few other things to notice about David and Mephibosheth.

First, Mephibosheth did not do anything to earn his seat at the table with the king. Likewise, we can never earn our way into heaven. The Bible tells us we have all sinned and we can never be good enough to earn our salvation.

Second, Mephibosheth was lame. He was of no real use to David in the sense that he couldn't serve in the army or provide for himself. David brought him to live with him in Jerusalem simply because of his promise to Jonathan. God uses people who seem like they are weak. God saves people and brings them to His table out of His great love for us.

Third, for whatever reason, it was many years before David honored this promise to Jonathan. We don't really know why. But I think it reminds us that God acts in His own time. He keeps His promises, but it's not always right away.

Psalm 145:13 says, The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

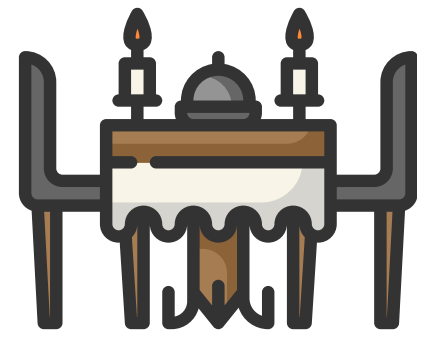
Hebrews 10:23 says, Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Let's pray together and thank God for His faithfulness. I will read the prayer, and if you agree with it, you can read it with the the second time.

Prayer: God, thank you for keeping your promises. Just as David kept his promise to Jonathan, we know you keep your promises to us. Thank you for all the things we can learn from the story of the friendship between Jonathan and David. And thank you for sending our faithful friend, Jesus. Amen.

Faithful Friends

Sunday school lesson; Friendship part 3



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Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand.

2. His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the 'whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.



What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.



'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus

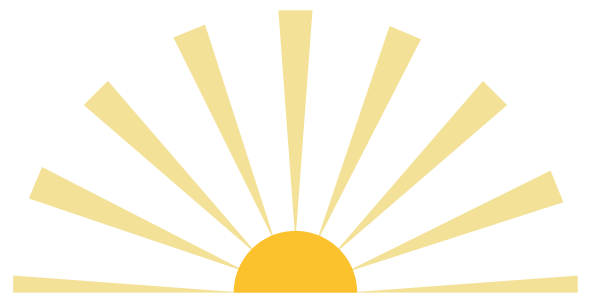
1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take him at his word,
Just to rest upon his promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him
How I've proved him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus
O for grace to trust him more.

2. I'm so glad I learned to trust him,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that he is with me,
Will be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him
How I've proved him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus
O for grace to trust him more.

Amazing Grace



1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
4. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun!

David and Mephibosheth

L A I M M O X D O I R G T K K F N M H A
 J M Y O Q U O Z R W N D T E Z A D Y Y V
 T N Y Q S H G O O I J C Y I Z I G I L E
 T Q Y Z W R T R Q V J T Z C G T S O M E
 A H J Z H E O E A P Z S D R C H L A M U
 F W E N O B G N H W K M H Q X F L Z R U
 F C R Y K R I F O S E Y Q W C U U X Z B
 E K U Q U E J R Q H O S I L A L E I O A
 L T S B Y V C G L G O B I W K G D W C D
 N X A E G E P E H B U D I Q I W V M O F
 V W L H B R L N H N F T I H N R V X V E
 D L E Y C O C E R A Q X E K P U A J E J
 U H M J H F A X K H C L N I C E C Z N L
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 M P I N F H R U T N H G N Q P M V S T Q
 B S J T U M I T Z O J V Z W Y O G A M M
 S Y U Z U Z J N R J W E M K G R R Q D K
 B A N Q U E T J R P B E F P F P M U B B
 T X C M Q D Q P P Q N W L A L M D M O X

DAVID

JONATHAN

KING

MEPHIBOSHETHLAME

TABLE

FOREVER

PROMISE

COVENANT

HONOR

FAITHFUL

JERUSALEM

BANQUET

HEAVEN

