

JONATHAN: David's Friend

study #4



THE LIFE OF DAVID: Cultivating a Heart for God

Samuel was a mentor to David, but he was geographically distant and emotionally unavailable. Saul was hardly a mentor - he was actually more of an example of what to avoid. But David was given a gift in his unexpected relationship with Jonathan. In the midst of persecution, turmoil and chaos, David and Jonathan forged a friendship which became a source of spiritual encouragement for both men at a time when they needed it the most.

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.”

1 Samuel 18:1-4

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

There are at least 15 men in the Old Testament named Jonathan. Why so many? (Hint: look in a Bible dictionary to find out what “Jonathan” means.)

For this study, read 1 Samuel 18-20 carefully. Then answer these questions, which mark out 5 crucial characteristics of a true friendship:

1. MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE

How does the King James (or New American Standard) translate verse 18:1 differently from the NIV?

How did Jonathan first demonstrate his acceptance of David?

2. TIME TOGETHER

How much time did David & Jonathan spend together?

3. FREEDOM OF SPEECH

“A friend is one to whom I may pour out all the contents of my heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping, and with a breath of kindness, blow the rest away.” (Arabian proverb)

What does Exodus 33:11 say about friendship?

Use an adjective to describe the quality of David & Jonathan's conversations:

4. DEMONSTRATED LOYALTY

What did David ever do for Jonathan?

What did Jonathan ever do for David ?

What were the biggest tests in their relationship?

“We take care of our health, we lay up money, we make our roof tight, and our clothing sufficient, but who provides wisely that he shall not be wanting in the best property of all - friends?”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

5. MUTUAL VALUES


“To enjoy a friend, I need more in common with him than hating the same people.” (Frank Clark)

What do you think attracted these men to one another?

What values do you most desire to share in a friendship? In other words, what do you look for, consciously or subconsciously, in a friend?

Lessons on “Friendship” from the book of Proverbs


Look up the following verses and note the warnings or observations they give:

 *Proverbs 17:17*

 *Proverbs 18:24*

 *Proverbs 19:4*

 *Proverbs 25:19*

 *Proverbs 27:6*





**LIFE RESPONSE:
What Does it Mean to Me?**

Name and describe your 3-5 best friendships:

What pattern do you see to your choice of friends? In other words, what tends to draw you to people?

What have the biggest threats to friendship been in your life? In other words, where has conflict come from, or why have some friendships ended?

If there was one past friendship that you could repair, which one would it be?

Someone once said that “true friendships are measured in decades.” How has that played itself out in your life?



RECOMMENDED READING:

The Friendship Factor, Alan Loy McGinnis
Making Friends and Making Them Count, Em Griffin
The Friendless American Male, David Smith