



## 14: Friendship Founded on Faith

(1 Sam 18:1-19:7)

*Today we see how one of the most powerful friendships in Scripture — between David and Jonathan — reveals what it means to build relationships rooted in faith, humility, and courage. This message will challenge us to be the kind of friends who strengthen others' faith and point them toward the God who never fails.*

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\* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) unless otherwise noted.

### 1 Samuel 18:1-4

When David had finished speaking with Saul, **Jonathan was bound to David in close friendship**, and loved him as much as he loved himself. Saul kept David with him from that day on and did not let him return to his father's house. **Jonathan made a covenant with David** because he loved him as much as himself. Then Jonathan removed the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his military tunic, his sword, his bow, and his belt.

Evidently, Jonathan - the crown prince - was part of this meeting in 1 Samuel 17:57-58. There was something about David that connected Jonathan to him...a bond of brotherhood, a **friendship founded on faith**. Both of these men had trusted Yahweh and both had been used to accomplish great victories because of that trust.

We have previously seen of David telling Saul about his reliance upon YAHWEH - not his own strength or skill - to defeat Goliath.

It's the kind of bond Christians sense with others who stand up for Jesus & speak the truth when others are scared to, the moment when a man or woman does great things yet gives sincere credit to the God who gave them the ability. Although David & Jonathan could have become rivals, these 2 became brothers.

Jonathan, the crown prince - the one who should be the next king of Israel - symbolically transfers his royal rights to David. Jonathan was humble and willing to be second in command to David (as we later see - 1 Sam 23:17). Not only will David eventually take Jonathan's place as the King of Israel, but the two have made an unbreakable covenant before God - to have each other's backs - no matter what.

### 1 Samuel 18:5-9

**David** marched out with the army and was **successful in everything Saul sent him to do**. Saul put him in command of the fighting men, which pleased all the people and Saul's servants as well. As the troops were coming back, when David was returning from killing the Philistine, the women came out from all the cities of Israel to meet King Saul, singing and dancing with tambourines, with shouts of joy, and with three-stringed instruments. As they danced, the women sang: Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands. Saul was furious and resented this song. "They credited tens of thousands to David," he complained, "but they only credited me with thousands. What more can he have but the kingdom?" So Saul watched David jealously from that day forward.

Once again, we see the contrast between Saul and his son Jonathan. Jonathan would have been pleased for David's success, but Saul is jealous of David.

### 1 Samuel 18:10-17

The next day an evil spirit sent from God came powerfully on Saul, and he began to rave inside the palace. David was playing the lyre as usual, but Saul was holding a spear, and he threw it, thinking, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David got away from him twice. Saul was afraid of David, because **the LORD was with David** but had left Saul. Therefore, Saul sent David away from him and made him commander over a thousand men. **David** led the troops and **continued to be successful** in all his activities because **the LORD was with him**. When Saul observed that David was very successful, he dreaded him. But all Israel and Judah loved David because he was leading their troops. Saul told David, "Here is my oldest daughter Merab. I'll give her to you as a wife if you will be a warrior for me and fight the LORD's battles." But Saul was thinking, "I don't need to raise a hand against him; let the hand of the Philistines be against him."

### 1 Samuel 18:18-19

Then David responded, "Who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel that I should become the king's son-in-law?" When it was time to give Saul's daughter Merab to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife.

David was expecting to be married on that day, but instead, she is given to another. Why would Saul do this, other than to try to hurt David?

### 1 Samuel 18:20-25

Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David, and when it was reported to Saul, it pleased him. "I'll give her to him," Saul thought. "She'll be a trap for him, and the hand of the Philistines will be against him." So Saul said to David a second time, "You can now be my son-in-law." Saul then ordered his servants, "Speak to David in private and tell him, 'Look, the king is pleased with you, and all his servants love you. Therefore, you should become the king's son-in-law.' " Saul's servants reported these words directly to David, but he replied, "Is it trivial in your sight to become the king's son-in-law? I am a poor commoner." The servants reported back to Saul, "These are the words David spoke." Then Saul replied, "Say this to David: 'The king desires no other bride-price except a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.' " Actually, **Saul intended to cause David's death at the hands of the Philistines.**

Sadly, Saul was in such competition with David that he issued this crazy command to **cause David's death.**

### 1 Samuel 18:26-19:7

When the servants reported these terms to David, he was pleased to become the king's son-in-law. Before the wedding day arrived, David and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines. He brought their foreskins and presented them as full payment to the king to become his son-in-law. Then Saul gave his daughter Michal to David as his wife. Then Saul gave his daughter Michal to David as his wife. Saul realized that the LORD was with David and that his daughter Michal loved him, and he became even more afraid of David. As a result, Saul was David's enemy from then on. Every time the Philistine commanders came out to fight, David was more successful than all of Saul's officers. So his name became well known. Saul ordered his son Jonathan and all his servants to kill David. But Saul's son Jonathan liked David very much, so he told him, "My father, Saul, intends to kill you. Be on your guard in the morning and hide in a secret place and stay there. I'll go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are and talk to him about you. When I see what he says, I'll tell you."

Jonathan spoke well of David to his father, Saul. He said to him, "The king should not sin against his servant David. He hasn't sinned against you; in fact, his actions have been a great advantage to you. He took his life in his hands when he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced, so why would you sin against innocent blood by killing David for no reason?"

Saul listened to Jonathan's advice and swore an oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be killed." So Jonathan summoned David and told him all these words. Then Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he served him as he did before.

Saul listened to the truth the Jonathan was speaking. At least for now, this powerful man was humble enough to receive correction, and that led to reconciling with David, the one whom he had considered his enemy.

► **"If you're still breathing...there's still HOPE!"** You haven't gone too far for God's grace...yet.

You too can listen and respond when you are confronted by the truth of Scripture, and move from being an enemy of God, to being in right relationship with Him.

### 2 Corinthians 5:19-21

...in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

❓ Are YOU right with God?

❓ Are you telling others HOW to be right with God?

**TAKE SOME NOTES HERE**

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- \* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- \* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156).

## Discussion questions

These discussion questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your Family, Friends, or Small Group.

### New Testament Applications: Jesus, Our True Shepherd & King

#### Opening Connection

1. When you think of a “friendship founded on faith,” who comes to mind and why?
2. What do you think makes *faith-based friendship* different from ordinary friendship?
3. Share a time when a Christian friend strengthened your faith during a tough season.

#### Faith and Friendship (1 Samuel 18:1-4)

4. Why do you think Jonathan was so deeply drawn to David? What did he see in David that reflected his own faith?
5. Jonathan gave David his robe, armor, sword, and belt — what do these symbolize?
6. In what ways can humility strengthen our friendships rather than weaken them?

#### Jealousy vs. Joy (1 Samuel 18:5-9)

7. What caused Saul's jealousy to grow toward David?
8. How does jealousy damage our ability to celebrate what God is doing in someone else's life?
9. How can we practice rejoicing in others' victories rather than competing with them?

#### Real Friends Speak Truth (1 Samuel 19:4-7)

10. Jonathan risked his own position — even his relationship with his father — to defend David.  
What does this teach us about *courageous friendship*?
11. Why is it so hard to confront people we care about when they're wrong?
12. Have you ever had to lovingly confront a friend or family member? What helped you do it with grace?

#### Gospel & Communion Connection

13. How does Jonathan's covenant with David point us to Jesus and the New Covenant?
14. In what ways is Jesus the ultimate “friend who sticks closer than a brother”? (Prov 18:24)
15. How does our friendship with Christ shape the way we love and protect others in the church?

#### Personal Application

16. Is there a friendship you need to *restore*, *protect*, or *strengthen* this week?
17. Who could you encourage this week — the way Jonathan encouraged David?
18. What's one action step you'll take to deepen your friendships in the faith family?