

onechurch

bigIdea

BIG IDEA: Strong men don't stand alone—they lock arms and stand together!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Glance back over 1 Samuel 17:41-58.* How would you feel after the victory of just conquering a 9'9" giant and winning?
2. By defeating Goliath, David had met and conquered his most fearsome foe... or so he thought. Little did David realize his greatest enemy would come from his own camp, King Saul. Have you ever been attacked by a person you thought was on your side?
3. Along with David's greatest enemy, this passage reveals David's greatest friend, Jonathan. Have you noticed God bringing people into your life just when you needed them? What impact did they have?
4. Do you think it is harder for men to connect and have friends of the same sex than women? Why or why not? Why do you think it is so hard for guys to connect relationally and talk about real stuff?

To say that men have no intimate friends seems on the surface too harsh, and it raises quick objections from most men. But the data indicates that it is not far from the truth. Even the most intimate of friendships (of which there are few) rarely approach the depth of disclosure a woman commonly has with other women. Men, who neither bare themselves nor bear one another, are buddies in name only.

5. The first principle of developing strong friendships is having shared values. Why do you think David and Jonathan hit it off so well? (*Read 1 Samuel 14:6, 17:47*) What values do you see that they shared?
6. *Read 1 Samuel 13:22 and 18:3-4.* The second principle of developing strong friendships is having unselfish love. How does the earlier passage put Jonathan's gift in a different light? What was Jonathan saying by giving David his robe, tunic, and weapons?

You know what's missing from David and Jonathan? Jealousy. Jonathan had every right to be angry and ticked that God picked David over Jonathan to lead, but he wasn't. There is no jealousy. No competition or comparison between the two. Friends stand by each other unselfishly.

7. How does jealousy destroy friendships? Can you tell of a time when your jealousy destroyed a relationship?
8. Have you ever known anyone who has given up power or position for God's will? Who and how?
9. How have you sensed God calling you beyond the norm and the expected, to give up something that is rightfully yours but needs to be given over to God's greater plan?
10. *Read 1 Samuel 19:1-2.* The third principle of developing strong friendships is having deep loyalty. How has your loyalty to friends been tested recently?
11. The fourth principle of developing strong friendships is having real transparency.

4 Degrees of Transparency

Cliché: "How you doing?" "What about this weather?"

Facts: This is sharing what you know.

Opinions: This is sharing what you think.

Dreams and desires. This is sharing who you are.

THINK ABOUT IT

It is easy to drift through life and not really get close to another person, keeping everyone at arms length. What are the pros and cons for keeping people at a distance?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What relationship will you take a risk by going deeper this week? How will you be intentional building lasting, deep friendships with others this week?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy. Proverbs 27:6