



DAVID

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Small Group Guide: David, Week 13

Key Takeaways:

1. **Context Matters** - Understanding the background of Scripture helps us grasp the emotional weight and significance of events
2. **True Friendship Seeks Truth** - Jonathan was willing to test his assumptions and discover the truth, even when it was painful
3. **Jealousy and Bitterness Destroy** - Saul's inability to say David's name revealed how deeply jealousy had poisoned his heart
4. **Covenant Relationships Require Honesty** - David and Jonathan's relationship was strong enough to withstand confrontation and truth-telling
5. **Sin Affects Everyone** - Saul's determination to kill David impacted his entire family and kingdom

Discussion Questions:

Understanding the Text

1. **Why was David so angry when he found Jonathan?**
What did he assume Jonathan knew? How would you have felt in David's position?
2. **Why was Jonathan so shocked by David's accusation?**
What had happened in chapter 19 that made Jonathan believe Saul had changed his mind?
3. **Explain the significance of the New Moon Festival in their plan.** Why was this particular celebration an effective test of Saul's true intentions?

Going Deeper

1. **Read verse 30 again. What does Saul's inability to say David's name reveal about his heart?** Have you ever experienced or witnessed this kind of bitterness? What were the results?
2. **Jonathan was willing to test his own assumptions about his father.** Why is this difficult to do, especially with family members? When have you had to confront an uncomfortable truth about someone close to you?
3. **Saul called Jonathan "stupid son of a whore" and then tried to kill him with a spear.** What does this reveal about how far jealousy and sin had taken Saul? How does unconfessed sin escalate in our lives?
4. **David took an oath "by the Lord and by your own soul" (v. 3).** What does this tell us about the weight of making promises or swearing oaths? How seriously do we take our words today?

Personal Application

1. **Jonathan had to choose between loyalty to his father (the king) and loyalty to his covenant friend.** When have you had to choose between competing loyalties? What helped you make the right decision?
2. **David stayed "one step ahead" of death through God's protection and wisdom.** When have you experienced God's protection in a difficult or dangerous situation? How did you recognize His hand?
3. **Pastor Allen mentioned that David would be a fugitive.** How do you think this knowledge affected both David and Jonathan? How do we trust God when we know difficult times are ahead?
4. **Saul kept Jonathan "in the dark" about his plans.** When has someone's deception affected you? How did you discover the truth? What was the result?

Character Under Pressure

1. **Compare and contrast how Jonathan, Michal, and Saul each responded under pressure.** What determined their different choices?
2. **David wrote Psalm 59 during this experience. Read verses 1-2, 9-10, 16-17.** How did David process his fear and danger? What can we learn from his example?

Practical Application:

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

1. **Examine Your Words** - Pay attention to how you speak about people who have hurt or frustrated you. Do you avoid saying their names? Do you speak with bitterness?

Confess any bitterness to God and ask Him to heal your heart.

2. **Test Your Assumptions** - Like Jonathan, we sometimes assume we know the full story. Identify one situation where you may be making assumptions. Commit to seeking the truth through honest conversation.
3. **Honor Your Commitments** - Review the promises and commitments you've made to others. Are you keeping them? Is there someone you need to reach out to in order to honor a commitment?
4. **Be Willing to Confront** - If there's a difficult truth you need to speak to someone you care about, pray for wisdom and courage. Plan a time to have that conversation with grace and honesty.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Jonathan's willingness to discover the truth, even when it shattered his assumptions about his father, demonstrates the kind of integrity God calls us to. True friendship and covenant relationships can withstand honest confrontation. Where is God calling you to seek truth, even if it's uncomfortable?

Closing Prayer:

Lord,

Thank you for the truth of your Word. Give us wisdom to discern what is real in complicated situations. Expose and heal any bitterness or jealousy in our hearts. Grant us courage to honor our promises and covenant relationships, even when it costs us. We ask Your protection over those

who are facing opposition, injustice, or danger today. And where there are broken relationships in our families or our church, would you bring repentance, forgiveness, and restoration for your glory.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Power of Covenant Relationships

Reading: 1 Samuel 18:1-4; Proverbs 18:24

Devotional: Jonathan and David's friendship was more than an emotional connection; it was a sacred covenant before God. In a world where relationships are often transactional, God calls us to covenant commitments that mirror His faithfulness to us. Jonathan risked everything, including his throne, to honor his promise to David. This challenges us to examine our own relationships: Are we fair-weather friends or covenant keepers? True friendship requires sacrifice, loyalty, and putting others' needs above our own interests. Just as Jonathan's love for David reflected God's covenant love for Israel, our friendships should demonstrate Christ's sacrificial love. Consider today: Who has God placed in your life that needs your covenant loyalty, even when it costs you something significant?

Day 2: When Assumptions Cloud Truth

Reading: 1 Samuel 20:1-4; Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional: David assumed Jonathan knew about Saul's murderous plans, while Jonathan assumed his father had changed. Both were operating on incomplete information, leading to a painful misunderstanding. How often do we make assumptions about others' knowledge, motives, or actions without seeking the truth? God calls us to trust Him rather than lean on our own understanding. David and Jonathan's confrontation, though heated, led to clarity because they were committed to truth over comfort. In our relationships, we must have the courage to ask hard questions and the humility to admit when we are wrong. Misunderstandings flourish in silence but wither in honest communication. Today, ask God to reveal where assumptions have damaged your relationships, and take steps toward truthful, grace-filled conversation.

Day 3: Discerning True Intentions

Reading: 1 Samuel 20:24-34; Matthew 7:15-20

Devotional: The New Moon Festival became a test that revealed Saul's true heart. Sometimes God allows circumstances to expose what lies beneath the surface in others and in ourselves. Saul's rage when David was absent unveiled the murderous intent that

he had been hiding. Jesus taught us that we know people by their fruit, not their words. Saul made vows of peace but harbored hatred. This reminds us to pay attention to patterns, not just promises. Are there situations in your life where you have been ignoring warning signs because you wanted to believe the best? Wisdom requires both grace and discernment. God does not call us to be naive but to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Pray for discernment to see clearly while maintaining a heart of love.

Day 4: The Cost of Righteousness

Reading: 1 Samuel 20:30-34; Luke 14:25-33

Devotional: Jonathan's loyalty to David cost him his father's approval and his earthly inheritance. Saul made it clear: choose David or choose the throne. Jonathan chose righteousness over royalty. Following God often requires us to forfeit what the world values. Jesus warned that discipleship demands we count the cost: sometimes family relationships, career advancement, or social standing. Jonathan's choice teaches us that some things matter more than earthly gain. He valued covenant faithfulness over political power and integrity over inheritance. His refusal to eat at the festival demonstrated his grief over injustice and his solidarity with the persecuted. When we stand with those God loves, we may stand against those the world honors. Are you willing to lose earthly position to maintain heavenly integrity? True treasure is stored in heaven, not in earthly kingdoms.

Day 5: God's Sovereignty in Suffering

Reading: 1 Samuel 19:9-12; Psalm 57:1-3

Devotional: David spent years as a fugitive, one step away from death, yet God preserved him for his purpose. Sometimes God's calling leads through the wilderness before reaching the throne. David's suffering was not punishment but preparation. In the cave, he learned dependence on God that he could never learn in the palace. When Michal warned David and helped him escape, God was orchestrating his protection through unexpected means. God is always working, even when circumstances seem desperate. The same God who kept David safe from assassination attempts is faithful to keep you through your trials. Your current difficulty may be developing the character you need for your future calling. Trust that God has not forgotten you. Like David, you may be one step away from danger but also one step closer to your destiny. God's faithfulness never fails.