

You Can't Make Old Friends?
Growth Group Discussion Guide
1 Samuel 18:1-4

Intro questions

- Tonight we're talking about friendship. Tell us about one of your long-term friends—someone you have known for a long time. What makes that friendship special?
- First, let's take a moment to pray, asking for God's Spirit to lead our discussion.

1. Read the story of David and Jonathan's friendship, in the following passages. (Divide them among your group members, since there are many verses to read).

- 1 Samuel 18:1-4
- 1 Samuel 20:1-42
- 1 Samuel 23:14-18

2. Discuss the following questions about what you just read.

- What stuck out to you about the friendship between David and Jonathan?
- What do you think made their friendship last through such trying times?
- Eugene Peterson suggests that David would not have lasted through these difficult years without Jonathan's friendship. Do you agree? Why or why not?

3. Discuss these topics that came up in Sunday's sermon.

- Pastor Josh suggested that we all need a few deep friendships with people who will encourage our faith and help us persevere.
 - Invite people to share about a time when a friend played this role for them.
- When you made your "list" of deep friends on Sunday morning, was your list complete? Do you feel that you have the deep friendships that you need, or is something/someone missing?
- What aspects of our culture work against the development of this kind of friendship?
- What steps would you need to take to counteract these opposing forces?
- We talked on Sunday about the importance of commitment in deep friendship. How do you develop this sort of **commitment** with someone who isn't your spouse? Do any practical actions help enable it?
- Josh also highlighted the **vulnerability** that is vital to deep friendship. Why do you think vulnerability is a critical ingredient in this kind of relationship?
- What is one way that you have cultivated mutual vulnerability in a deep friendship? How do you deal with the awkwardness and risk involved?
- As we saw on Sunday, deep friendship is **costly**. What are some of the "costs" of long-term friendship that you have encountered?
- How does Jesus, in what he has given to us, practically empower us to be this kind of friend?
- Do you sense God prompting you to take any practical steps as a result of this sermon and discussion? What are they? How can our group support you in them?

4. Prayer

- Pray for the depth of friendship that we have discussed!
- Pray for one another about any other needs that have been mentioned.