

In our previous study, we examined what it takes to develop quality friendships. Jonathan and David serve as classic role models of what it means to have a quality friend and be a quality friend. Unfortunately, as David was growing in his friendship with Jonathan and growing in favor with the people, Saul's animosity was building up against David. Saul went as far as trying to kill David in the midst of one of his maniac phases. Saul then schemed some other way to have David killed in the course of his military duties. Every attempt of Saul was frustrated, only leading to David being more and more elevated and successful! Through all of Saul's attempts, David behaved wisely, humbly, and valiantly, just as we must when we are under attack from the enemy of our souls.

All seemed to be going well for David. He settled into a new marriage with Michal, Saul's younger daughter, but as we'll see this week, Saul was driven over the edge in his maniacal anger and jealousy. We will focus in again on what it means to be a true friend, especially when times reach their worst. In light of this, we'll examine five important truths about quality friendship, as we complete our look at David's youthful years, prior to being exalted to kingship over Israel.

## **DAY 1**

### **A Friend Intercedes 1 SAMUEL 19:1-12**

*Please Read 1 Samuel 19:1-12 and answer the following questions*

[ 1 ] Saul really lost it after all the success of David, despite his best efforts to get rid of him. Eventually, he ordered his own son and servants to kill David!

What did Jonathan do about this, and why (vv. 1-3)?

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[ 2 ] What steps did Jonathan take to protect his friend, and what was the result of this (vv. 4-7)?

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[ 3 ] David was brought back into the service of Saul, and had victory over the Philistines once again. Obviously, this upset Saul.

What happened as David tried to comfort and minister to him, and to what extent did David have to go (vv. 10-12)?

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## **EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

[ 1 ] We saw that Jonathan greatly delighted in his friend David. This is a Hebrew word meaning "to be pleased with, have a strong, positive attraction for someone, and shows one's emotional involvement with another."<sup>1</sup> The loyalty that Jonathan had for David was, in part, based on this delighting, but it was more than that; it was a loyal love, a covenant love that bound the two together, as we'll see later in this study.<sup>2</sup>

Jonathan's commitment to David led him to intercede with his father on David's behalf, speaking well of him (meaning he said that which is good and pleasant, even beautiful, morally good as well<sup>3</sup>), and at least temporarily brought a reprieve. A true friend will pray for and intercede on behalf of their friend, speaking well of them to the heavenly Father. We all need that prayer support. Even the apostle Paul asked others to pray for him (1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1).

What are some great things that one friend can intercede for another as seen in these passages?

Philippians 1:9-11

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Colossians 1:3, 9-12

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[ 2 ] During this time, Saul had set watchers over David's house to try and kill him. David wrote Psalm 59 about this difficult and stressful time in his life. What did he realize that kept him from caving into this attack on his life (Psalm 59:8-10), and how was David's trial turned to triumph (Psalm 59:16-17)?

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**Daily Life Point:** Daily Life Point: What an example this is of a true friend interceding for the other, regardless of the cost to himself! If Jonathan could do this with his evil human father, how much more can we demonstrate true friendship by lifting our friends up to our gracious, holy, heavenly Father, who wants to hear and act as a result of our prayers?

What kind of specific prayer time do you spend with the Father, interceding in meaningful ways to Him for your friend? I don't mean just the general "Bless my friend" type of prayer, but specific, meaningful intercession. We must learn to get beyond the "Bless the grub" and "Now I lay me down to sleep" sort of prayers that are so easy to utter. As Samuel Chadwick well said, "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."<sup>4</sup>

What type of changes can you make in your prayer time to better intercede for those close to you?

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### **MEMORY PASSAGE**

This week we will memorize 1 Samuel 18:14. Review the passage several times throughout each day, and by the end of the week, you should have it memorized.

**And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him.**

**(1 Samuel 18:14 NKJV)**

### **DAY 2**

A Friend Protects  
**1 SAMUEL 19:13-24**

*Please Read 1 Samuel 19:13-24 and answer the following questions*

[ 1 ] How did Michal cover up for David (vv. 13-17)?

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[ 2 ] David did the smart thing and went to Samuel for help and protection. Samuel took him from his home in Ramah to Naioth, a sort of school for prophets, as seen later in 1 Kings. Saul heard word of it and sent troops to go get him.

What amazing thing happened to these men (vv. 20-21)?

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[ 3 ] Saul himself decided to go to find Samuel and David, and probably had the intent to kill Samuel as well as David (he did such a thing later to the priests who helped David in 1 Samuel 22).

What humbling thing then happened to Saul (vv. 23-24)?

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*Note:* The term naked may be better translated as "having stripped off his royal garments", symbolic of his being stripped from and forfeiting his claim as king.<sup>5</sup> The next time that Saul is stripped of his garments is the last time, as the Philistines stripped him after his death (1 Samuel 31:8-9).

### ***EXPANDED QUESTIONS***

[ 1 ] A true, quality friend will protect their friend, regardless of what it costs them, just like Samuel did here. No lies and deceptions were needed, like Michal offered to save her skin—just complete trust in the Lord's ability to deliver.

Paul developed such a quality friendship with an exiled couple from Rome, Aquila and Priscilla. This couple became traveling companions with Paul on some of his journeys (see Acts 18), and made a major impact on his and others' lives in the early church (see also 1 Corinthians 16:19).

What extent did this couple go to for Paul (Romans 16:3-4)? How is this a living example of 1 John 3:16?

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[ 2 ] God worked in an amazing way to protect David here. F. B. Meyer well said: As the raying forth of Christ's majesty flung His captors to the ground, so did the presence of God surround and protect both Samuel and David. And thus our God will still do for each of His persecuted ones.<sup>6</sup> Not all of God's persecuted ones survive the attack of the enemies of the gospel, but God assures us fully and completely that we have His protection through all He calls us to face—even unto death.

How do the following passages from the Psalms tell us what God will do so as we trust in Him?

Psalm 27:13-14

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Psalm 34:19

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Psalm 55:22

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Psalm 138:7

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**Daily Life Point:** A true friend protects, guards, and defends their friendship from the things that would try to hurt or destroy it. David's wife, Michal should have been David's best and most intimate friend. Unfortunately, as we will see here and in future studies, she seems more interested in herself, and she thought she had to resort to deception and lies to allow his escape. How much better was Samuel's actions of trusting in God to intervene and protect them! As R. Kent Hughes points out, many men use their wives as a sort of cop-out for not developing quality friendships with other men, but these are so necessary and reflected well in these passages of how important it can be to have quality friendships of the same gender.<sup>7</sup>

What are some ways that a friend can act as a protector over a friend in the different areas of their lives (spiritually, emotionally, physically, mentally, and more)? Think through these things, and discuss with your group some ways you can stand in the gap and be "spiritual protectors" for each other.

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***MEMORY PASSAGE***

Fill in the blanks by memory, and then review the passage several times.

And David behaved \_\_\_\_\_ in all his ways, and the Lord was \_\_\_\_\_ him.

(1 Samuel 18:14 NKJV)

**DAY 3**

A Friend Sacrifices  
**1 SAMUEL 20:1-11**

*Please Read 1 Samuel 20:1-11 and answer the following questions*

[ 1 ] It appears from this passage that Jonathan must have been unaware of the events that happened to David. Once it was safe, David fled from Naioth to find Jonathan and seek his help again.

How did David present the problem to a surprised Jonathan, and what does Jonathan say about it (vv. 1-4)?

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[ 2 ] David reveals his plan to test Saul's attitude during the New Moon festival, saying that he had gone to a family sacrifice in Bethlehem to see how Saul would react to his being gone from the feast. If he responded in anger, David would know he was determined to kill him. What amazing thing did David say to Jonathan in verse eight, and how did Jonathan respond to it (v. 9)?

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**EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

[ 1 ] The two of them went out to the field from there to discuss the specifics of their plan. Jonathan was learning that friendship means to sacrifice, which even meant going against his own father, who had earned his trust, but only by deception. Friendship means seeking the other's desires and needs as more important than our own.

We saw last week that Jonathan was willing to give up his claim to the throne selflessly to David, as he respected God's choice and honored his friend sacrificially; he was giving up the kingdom out of love for a friend!<sup>8</sup> Few of us have had to make that sort of sacrifice for a friend. In our last lesson, we considered many passages about the type of friendship qualities we should be seeking to have.

How does Romans 12:9-13 sum up the sacrificial ways a friend will show love to his friend?

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[ 2 ] What else will be seen in a friendship in which the friends are exhibiting sacrificial love for each other (2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27-28; 2:2-4)?

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**Daily Life Point:** Often times, the hardest thing for us in a friendship is to deny ourselves and sacrificially give to others without any expectation of something in return. Jonathan was willing to sacrifice everything, even his future and maybe his own life to take this risk for David's sake.<sup>9</sup>

How does Jesus' example of giving everything for us to make us His friends, make this easier for you? Is there anything holding you back from giving sacrificially in a friendship? Take it to the cross and look at all Christ has done for you, and weigh it in comparison! How can your group pray for you to be less self-oriented and more others-oriented?

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***MEMORY PASSAGE***

Fill in the blanks by memory, and then review the passage several times.

And David behaved \_\_\_\_\_ in all his \_\_\_\_\_, and the Lord was \_\_\_\_\_ him. (1 Samuel 18:14 NKJV)

**DAY 4**

A Friend Loves  
**1 SAMUEL 20:12-23**

Please Read 1 Samuel 20:12-23 and answer the following questions

[ 1 ] It seems that Jonathan was beginning to realize that this was heading for a parting of their ways, at least for now. What did he ask of David in view of this (vv. 12-16)?

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[ 2 ] Why did Jonathan seek this from David (v. 17)?

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[ 3 ] Jonathan told David that he would come out after the feast and use the shooting and retrieving of arrows as a signal of how things went. What was Jonathan's parting reminder to David (v. 23)?

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**EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

[ 1 ] A friend loves others as he loves himself, and out of that love he will seek after the other's best interest. Jonathan's loyal covenant-love with David is what allowed him to do this. David later kept this covenant with Jonathan, as we'll examine in a future study. It was faith in such a friend keeping his word that gave Jonathan the strength to risk and face Saul in order to help David. Love for our friends will lead us to honor, devotion, and perhaps lay our lives down for them.<sup>10</sup> What are some things these passages tell us about loving as friends?

Mark 12:31; Galatians 5:14

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Hebrews 13:1

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1 Peter 1:22

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1 John 3:23-24; 4:7

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**Daily Life Point:** The wonderful thing about the love we can have toward our friends in Christ is that it is not just a mere basis of some mutual attraction, or some temporary thing. This love is based on God's unique and everlasting love. This love,

Expresses the deep and constant love and interest of a perfect Being towards entirely unworthy objects, producing and fostering a reverential love in them towards the Giver, and is a practical love towards those who are partakers of the same, and a desire to help others to seek the Giver.<sup>11</sup>

How does understanding this enable you personally to better exhibit the sacrificial love Christ has shown you in your own friendship? Have you made a commitment to your friend to show them His love, and help them to seek the Giver of that love all the more?

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### **MEMORY PASSAGE**

Fill in the blanks by memory, and then review the passage several times.

And David \_\_\_\_\_ in all his \_\_\_\_\_, and the Lord was \_\_\_\_\_ him." (1 Samuel 18:14 NKJV)

### **DAY 5**

#### A Friend Releases **1 SAMUEL 20:24-42**

Please Read 1 Samuel 20:24-42 and answer the following questions

[ 1 ] The feast arrived. Saul noticed David's absence, thinking he probably was unclean (had to be purified because of some sin), so he didn't say anything. The second day, Saul asked Jonathan about it, and Jonathan relates the story they had made to test Saul's reaction. How did Saul react to this (vv. 30-31)?

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[ 2 ] Jonathan arose to the defense of his friend, but what reaction did he get from Saul, and how did he respond to this (vv. 33-34)?

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[ 3 ] Jonathan went out to the field the next day as agreed, and had the lad and arrows with him. We can all but hear David's heart pounding in his chest, as thoughts wildly ran through his mind about what happened. I am sure his heart stopped for a minute as Jonathan put the arrow to the bow, but then broke into many pieces when he saw that the arrow went beyond the lad, and Jonathan told him the arrows were past him. Once the boy went back to town, David came out.

How does the passage, as well as the first division of this year's studies, close out (vv. 41-42)?

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### **EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

[ 1 ] A true friend knows when it is time to let go. Despite this sad parting, Jonathan and David could be assured that their friendship was forever sealed in the Lord. True friends have things they will never leave behind, even when they have to part. We can be sure that if God calls apart two special friends like this, there is a divine purpose for a greater good.<sup>12</sup> Yet it is hard to accept at the time, isn't it?

How do these familiar passages bring us comfort when we have to face times such as these, especially at the loss of a friend through death or having to let go of a friendship that was so important in our lives?

Romans 8:28-30

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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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[ 2 ] Just a brief word about Saul's treatment of Jonathan. To abuse the name of a mother was probably the greatest insult known in the Middle East.<sup>13</sup> Saul showed his true colors by the angry and violent way he hurled abuse at his adult son (no pun intended). Jonathan was deeply hurt and understandably angered by all this. Yet there comes a point in our lives when it is foolish to keep casting our pearls before swine, and better to just commit it to prayer. Interestingly, though, Jonathan stayed loyal to his father, even to the point of death in battle (1 Samuel 31). Anger is so destructive when exhibited to our children, even as adults. What do the following passages tell us about anger?

Proverbs 29:22

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Ephesians 4:26-32; 6:4

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Colossians 3:8

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**Daily Life Point:** Have you been through the loss of a quality friend either through a move, a change in life, or even death? What are some things that you learned from that situation that can help you handle such a change in the future? How has this lesson helped you in understanding when it is important to let go and why these things have to happen some times? Please share some thoughts with your group.

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***MEMORY PASSAGE***

Fill in the blanks by memory, and then review the passage several times.

**I Samuel 18:14**

**DAY 6**

Pursuing God's Heart

[ 1 ] We have discussed many important aspects of quality friendship in these two lessons. We defined biblical friendship as loving others in the name of the Lord and with His love as our standard.<sup>14</sup> Biblical, quality friendships are honorable and vulnerable. This week we have seen that a true friend intercedes in prayer for their friend; acts as a protector for their friend in the various facets of their life; is willing to sacrifice for their friend out of the same love that Christ shows toward us; and that a true friend responds when they know it is time to let go of that friendship.

Do you have such a friend? You are truly blessed if you do. But the key to finding such a friend is being such a friend! R. Kent Hughes gives several practical suggestions toward seeking same-gender friendships that can lead to such quality friendships.<sup>15</sup> As you read these suggestions, mark which ones you need to work on, and how you will do it-starting this week:

- Pray that God provides such a quality friend for you.

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- Work at exhibiting friendliness toward others in your daily experiences.

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- Place yourself in situations where friendships are likely to build (same gender study groups, prayer meetings, and retreats).

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- Choose to affirm others, be a good listener to others, and offer hospitality to others.

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- Choose by faith to overcome the tendency in our culture to be privatized, and take the risk of opening your life up to others

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[ 2 ] There is probably nothing as hard in a friendship as the time when it comes to part. How has this week's study prepared you for such a thing, as well as equipped you to be a better friend to others? Read the following wonderful quote, and share your thoughts overall on the things you have learned about friendship, as well as dealing with the things that come along in life that are tools in the Master's hands to build us up for His purposes,

These are the hours that leave scars on our hearts and whiten the hair. The world in its rush is so unconscious of all the tragedies that are taking place around. Young hearts suffer till they can suffer no more. Aged ones cannot forget. Years after some scene like this, eyes will film with tears

as it is recalled. But Christ comes to us in these dark moments, as of old to the disciples, on whom had broken the full import of their Master's coming departure. 'Let not your heart be troubled... believe also in me' (John 14:1). There is no comfort like this. To believe that He is ordering each detail, to know that love is prompting each action of His hand and each thought of His mind, to lie back on His bosom and utterly trust Him-there is nothing like this to bridge the yawning gulf of separation, with its turbid, rushing stream beneath.<sup>16</sup>

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[ 3 ] Lastly, is there anything else that really ministered to your heart in this week's study that you'd like to share? If so, please record it here to share with your group.

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## ***MEMORY PASSAGE***

Fill in the blanks by memory, and then review the passage several times.

**1 Samuel 18:14**

## ***PARTING THOUGHTS***

Ten Years of Turmoil, Transition, and Training

After David left here at the end of 1 Samuel 20, there would be about ten years of exile in which God would further refine him and train him for the place of leadership he was to fulfill after Saul's demise.<sup>17</sup> During this time, like many of us have faced in our spiritual growth, were many mistakes-some serious, leading to the deaths of innocent people (such as the priests serving under Ahimelech, 1 Samuel 22).

Yet during that time, God began to assemble a rag-tag army that followed and served under David, many of whom later will be described as mighty men of valor. Saul continued his mad pursuit of David, and although more than once David had the opportunity to slay Saul, he refused to lay a hand on him, since he was the Lord's anointed. During one such time, Jonathan and David were able to meet and share the comfort of the Lord, as well as renew their covenant. This was the last time David would see his dear friend alive. Samuel died during this ten-year time, David married another woman named Abigail after some unusual circumstances, and David even fought for the Philistines as sort of a double agent!

Saul made his final and fatal mistake in trying to contact Samuel for guidance through a medium, in which Samuel shocked even the medium by actually appearing, and told Saul of coming death. Saul and his sons, including the beloved Jonathan, were slain in battle with the Philistines, opening the door at the right time for David to take the throne of Israel. David had many other adventures during this ten year period, and you are encouraged to take time to read 1 Samuel 21-31, if you can before going onto Lesson Five.

David wrote some 73 of the 150 Psalms. During this time of exile, David wrote eight psalms of which we know, describing the things he went through and the lessons it taught him. These were Psalms 34; 52; 54; 56; 57; 59; 63; and Psalm 142. There is something healing about recording the experiences we face, especially in such a form, if one is poetically inclined.

In closing out this brief overview of the time David spent in exile, meditate on these following passages, which reveal the awesome things David learned during this difficult time of his life: Psalm 34:1-8; Psalm 52:8-9; Psalm 56:3-4; Psalm 57:11; Psalm 59:16-17; Psalm 63:3-8

## NOTES

- 1 Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, Tenn.: AMG, 1994), p. 2377.
- 2 Gary Inrig, *Quality Friendship* (Chicago: Moody, 1981), p. 75.
- 3 Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study*, p. 2320
- 4 Robert J. Morgan, *Nelson's Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations, and Quotes* (Nashville: Nelson, 2000), p. 622.
- 5 Ronald F. Youngblood, 1, 2 Samuel in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, F.E. Gaebelein, ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1992), p. 717.
- 6 F.B. Meyer, *The Life of David* (Lynwood, Wash.: Emerald, 1995), p. 54.
- 7 R. Kent Hughes, *Disciplines of a Godly Man* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 1991), p. 59.
- 8 Eugene H. Merrill, 1 and 2 Samuel in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary Old Testament*, Editors J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1985), p. 450.
- 9 Ivor Powell, *David, His Life and Times* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel, 1990), p. 69.
- 10 Gene A. Getz, *David, Seeking God Faithfully* (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1995), p. 84.
- 11 W.E. Vine, *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Nashville: Nelson, 1939), p. 693.
- 12 Meyer, *The Life of David*, pp. 61-62.
- 13 Powell, *David*, p. 70.
- 14 Inrig, *Quality Friendship*, p. 20.
- 15 Hughes, *Disciplines*, pp. 64-66.
- 16 Meyer, *The Life of David*, p. 63.
- 17 Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Successful* (Colorado Springs: Victor, 2001), p. 105.

