

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 19

God gives David a friend

1 Samuel 18:1–20:42



DAY 1

Jonathan faithfully loved David • 1 Samuel 18:1–4

READ

1 Samuel 18:1–4

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 18:1–4

What is true friendship? It is when one soul is knit to another, like Jonathan's and David's (1 Sam 18:1). They were united because they shared the same faith, the same love for God's glory, and the same courage in battle (13:3; 14:4–14). Because Jonathan loved David, he made a covenant with him (18:3). A **covenant** is an unbreakable promise that unites two people or groups. Jonathan was imitating God's covenant love. Because God loved Israel, He swore an oath to them that will never be broken (Deut 7:7–8; Rom 11:28–29). Do you imitate God's love in the way you love others (1 John 4:19)? Jonathan also shows that godly friendship is selfless. He took off his princely robe and military gear and gave them to David (1 Sam 18:4). By doing that, Jonathan gave up his right to be king and instead supported David's kingship. From a human perspective, Jonathan should have been the next king. He was the oldest son of Saul, a famous warrior, and a godly man. But Jonathan was **humble**. He was willing to give up his own rights to put God's kingdom first.

ASK

1. Why did Jonathan love David so much? *When Jonathan saw David fight Goliath, he realized that they both loved God's honor and trusted God completely.*
2. What did Jonathan make with David? *A covenant.*
3. What is a covenant? *An unbreakable promise that unites two people or groups.*
4. What did Jonathan give David? *Jonathan gave David his royal clothes. Jonathan should have been king after Saul, but he let David be king instead.*

DISCUSS

1. Who are your friends? Why are they your friends? What passions do you share? Do you and your friends share a passion for God?
2. In what ways do you cling to your own rights and privileges? How does loving God most help you love others selflessly?

DAY 2

Saul tried to kill David • 1 Samuel 18:5–19:24

READ

1 Samuel 18:5–19:24

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 18:5–19:24

Saul was nothing like Jonathan. He used David instead of loving him. He sought his own interests rather than God's (1 Sam 18:2, 5). As a result, he feared David. Instead of rejoicing in what God was doing through David to bless Israel, he considered David his enemy (18:12, 15, 29). His bitter jealousy is a reminder of sin's destructive power (Prov 27:4). Saul's jealousy led him to seek David's life several times. First, he tried to kill David privately (1 Sam 18:10–11). Then he plotted David's death at the hands of the Philistines (18:12–30). When these schemes failed, he openly called for David's death (19:1–21). Finally, he went out to kill David himself (19:22). However, God is with His godly ones, especially in suffering. God's presence protected David (18:12, 14, 28). He guarded David in battle, used Jonathan to save David's life (19:1–7), and directly intervened to save his life again (19:23). Not surprisingly, David praised God by writing a song about this difficult time (Ps 59).

ASK

1. What did the women say as Israel's soldiers returned home from war?
Saul has killed his thousands, David his ten thousands (1 Sam 18:6–8).
2. How did God use Jonathan's friendship to help David?
Jonathan risked his own life for David.
3. What did Saul try to do to David?
Saul tried to kill David several times in different ways.
4. When Saul could not kill David, how did Saul feel?
Saul was very afraid of David. He should have rejoiced that God was blessing Israel through David.

DISCUSS

1. How do you feel when others are honored for their success? Are you able to rejoice with them? Are you thankful when God shows His glory, even if it is not through you?
2. How do you seek your own glory? Why is this foolish (Isa 2:11–12)?

DAY 3

Jonathan remained faithful to David • 1 Samuel 20:1–42

READ

1 Samuel 20:1–42

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Samuel 20:1–42

True friends are there for one another, especially in the hard times. You can see this when David turned to his friend in a time of trouble. First, when David was confused (1 Sam 20:1), Jonathan was able to confirm that David had done nothing wrong (20:8–9). Second, Jonathan stayed loyal. He even made a greater covenant with David than before. This covenant was with the entire house of David—a lasting agreement between

David's family and Jonathan's family (20:15–16). Third, Jonathan helped David by investigating to find the truth (20:18–29). Fourth, Jonathan showed selfless love. When Saul became angry, Jonathan stood up for David, at great cost to himself (20:30–34). He was furious with his father, but not for his own sake. His concern was for David and his honor (20:34). Fifth, after telling David the bad news (20:35–40), Jonathan comforted David by pointing him back to God. He sent David away in peace (20:42), peace that endured in the midst of trouble because it was rooted in covenant friendship and trust in God (23:16).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Who did David go to when he was in trouble?
Jonathan.
2. Why did David go to Jonathan?
Because they had made a covenant and were true friends.
3. How did Jonathan prove to be a true friend?
He helped David understand what was going on, and he stayed true to David even though it harmed himself.
4. How did Jonathan encourage David?
Jonathan reminded David of his own friendship, and he pointed David back to God.

DISCUSS 

1. What are the characteristics of a true friend? How can you be kind and encourage a friend this week? Do you know someone who needs an encouraging friend right now?
2. Jonathan was faithful to help God's chosen king. Are you willing to be a helper and support instead of the one who gets all the attention?

DAY 4*A friend loves at all times • Proverbs 17:17***READ** 

Proverbs 17:17

EXPLAIN **The truth of Proverbs 17:17**

A *friend* is valuable gift. Jonathan shows this. Jonathan was a *like-minded companion who loves loyally and selflessly*. Even though he should have been the next king, he gave up his rights and privileges in order to serve David. In so doing, he became closer to David than a brother (Prov 18:24). He was a true friend because he loved David at all times, not just when it was easy (17:17). Jonathan shows us that friendship is not about meeting our needs but faithfully meeting the needs of others. At times you may find yourself in David's shoes, called to suffer. If so, thank God if He chooses to bless you with friends like Jonathan (Eccl 4:9–10). At other times, you may find yourself in the shoes of Jonathan, sacrificing your rights and privileges for the benefit of another. If so, choose to decrease in order that your friend may increase (John 3:30). When you put others first out of love for God (Rom 12:1, 10), you humbly magnify God as Christ did (Phil 2:1–5). So whether you find yourself like David or like Jonathan, thank God for friendship.

ASK 

1. Why was Jonathan a true friend?
He loved David at all times and willingly sacrificed his rights and privileges for him.
2. How often does a friend love?
At all times, especially the hard times (Prov 17:17).
3. Is friendship about meeting our needs or the needs of another?
The needs of another.
4. Why does God give the gift of friendship?
To honor God by sacrificially loving. To encourage His people when they are suffering.

DISCUSS 

1. Describe something kind a friend has done for you lately. Thank God for the friends He has given you.
2. How can you be a friend like Jonathan to your brothers and sisters? What rights or privileges can you give up for them?

DAY 5

Jesus is the greatest friend • 1 John 3:16–18

READ

1 John 3:16–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 John 3:16–18

Who is the greatest friend? Jesus is. Jesus sets the standard for friendship and true love. He showed us what true love is when He sacrificed Himself for sinners. Even though He is God, Jesus willingly humbled Himself, taking on the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of man, in order that He might suffer and die on a cross to satisfy the Father's wrath against sin (Phil 2:7–8). This is the same type of love God expects of you, but that is impossible until you first receive Christ's love (1 John 3:16). So when you find it hard to humble yourself, look to Jesus. By His humble death your sins may be forgiven, the power of sin in your life broken, and peace with God restored. But since Jesus did not stay dead (2:9–11), you may also find life in His life (Rom 6:5) and reign with Him as He reigns (Rev 5:5). So even when life is hard, even when you must let go of your ambitions, you may have peace, because Jesus offers Himself as your truest friend.

ASK

1. What is the standard by which all other love is measured?
The love of Jesus.
2. How did Jesus demonstrate His love?
By laying down His life for us.
3. Who is the greatest friend?
Jesus. He gave up the glory He had in heaven in order to honor God and give His life for sinners. He is a friend to the very end, our only source of peace.
4. How can you be true friends?
Only when we first accept Christ's love for us. Then after that we can love with His love—selflessly, sacrificially, faithfully, encouraging others in the Lord for the glory of God.

DISCUSS

1. Describe some examples of earthly love (parent and child, husband and wife, soldier and fellow soldier, etc.). How do they compare to Jesus' love?
2. What is true love?

NEXT WEEK

God judges between David and Saul

1 Samuel 24:1–22

