

Small Group Material - David 2

David: Growing in friendship

1 Samuel 20

Welcome: (10 mins) What makes someone a good friend? Can you think of someone who has been an excellent friend to you? Why are they so great?

Worship: (10 mins) Sing or listen to “Draw me close”, Michael W Smith.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iykW_8t9IPo

Word: 1 Samuel 20:1-17, 30-42

(10 mins) Firstly read 1 Sam 18: 1-4

- 1) What is the picture of Jonathan and David’s friendship here? How is their bond described?
- 2) How would we describe a covenantal friendship? What might this look like?
- 3) Jonathan would be the actual heir to the throne, but David has been anointed as king. Are we surprised that Jonathan and David are friends?
- 4) Read Psalm 133 – what is David’s reflection on the importance of there being no jealousy or bitterness in their friendship?

In Chapter 19 – Saul has tried to kill David, but David escapes and flees.

(20 mins) Read 1 Sam 20: 1-17

- 1) V1 – are you surprised that David goes to Jonathan when Saul (Jonathan’s father) is the one who tried to kill him? What does this tell us about their friendship?
- 2) V2-5 – what is Jonathan’s response to what David has told him?
- 3) V4 – how is this an expression of unwavering loyalty between them? (There could be a conflict here, with Saul being Jonathan’s father.)
- 4) V5 -8 – what does David suggest as a plan?
- 5) V 9-15 – what does Jonathan suggest in response?
- 6) Why do you think Jonathan makes his request in 14-15? (THEN read 2 Sam 9:6-8 – how do we see this covenant kept by David?)

- 7) Jonathan is willing to put his life on the line for David – how does this reveal what Christian love and friendship really means? (Explore this further in question 8).
- 8) In verse 17 – how do we see a picture of friendship that reflects the way we are called to love others by Jesus (read John 15:12-13 to uncover this further.)

(5 mins) Read 1 Sam 30-42

- 1) Are you surprised by how Jonathan reacts to his father in verse 32? What makes Jonathan so remarkable here?
- 2) Why is Jonathan defending David a mark of their friendship and an example of the love we have explored earlier in John 15:12-13?
- 3) V41-42 – what sense do we get here of the depth of their friendship and their love for one another? How is this a reflection of the way God loves us?

(5 mins) Read 2 Sam 1: 25-26

Again, how does David view Jonathan? What reflection does he share on how Jonathan had treated him?

Does this seem counter-cultural to have this level of friendship (especially given they are both men)? But, is it important for both men and women to have the level of friendship we see here? (Accountability, knowing someone would give themselves up for you, self worth, feeling loved.)

A final reflection: (10/15 mins)

- 1) How might having a relationship like Jonathan and David’s enhance our life and impact on our personal journey/relationship with Christ?
- 2) How do we see the love God has for us (the loyalty/ the sacrificial nature/the depth) reflected in David and Jonathan’s friendship?
- 3) In reality what would it look like to lay our life down for our friends/neighbours?
- 4) Is this high calling of friendship too difficult to achieve? How might we overcome this?

Witness: (15 mins)

Challenge our groups to be extending friendship to a neighbour this week (restrictions allowing) – a kind gesture, a quick socially distance chat on the doorstep with someone you know who lives alone on your road. Dropping a cake/meal off to someone who you know might be in need. Perhaps even prayerfully consider joining the efforts on Friday's to deliver to our whole community.

Pray for our mission partner Innovista – who build relationships in communities and train up young leaders to influence younger peers and lead them on the right path. <https://innovista.org>

Short questions for short zoomers:

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4 and John 15:12-13

In 1 Sam:

- 1) what is the picture of Jonathan and David's friendship here?
- 2) in what way does their friendship demonstrate the love Jesus describe in the verses from John?
- 3) if you can remember the whole passage from Sunday - in what way does Jonathan lay down his life for David?
- 4) pray for our friendship to grow to reflect Christ like love? How could we put this into action?