

family, friends & acquaintances in the life of David

intro

A close friend. Everyone should have one. Having a good friend around can totally change the way you see things and how you live.

In this study we'll have a look at a close friendship that was very significant for one of the 'big people' of the bible – David's friendship with Jonathan. Let's see what we can glean from their story that may be helpful for us today...

a starter

to get us in the mood, think back over your life so far and bring to mind one or two significant friends that you've had...

- Why were you friends with this person and how did the friendship begin?
- Share a story of a significant event or a funny thing that you experienced together
- What made this friendship more special than others you had?
- How (if at all) did this friendship change you?

David & Jonathan

The great friendship between David & Jonathan happened at a time when David was a commanding officer in King Saul's army and Jonathan was the King's son. David's popularity was growing rapidly, and this made King Saul very jealous and insecure, because he knew his own position was at stake.

Read the passages over the page

These passages tell some of their story. When finished, come back and consider the following about their friendship...

- Jonathan warned his friend of danger (1Sam19:1-3)
- He interceded for David (19:4-6)
- He reconciled his friend to an enemy (19:7)
- He put his friend's well-being and future prospects above his own (20:31)
- Their friendship very much included God in the mix (20:42)
- David remained a faithful friend to Jonathan even after Jonathan's death (2Sam 9:1-7)
- If Jonathan had been alive in charge of the army rather than Joab, there's a good chance he wouldn't have let David get away with the murder of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband. At that time in his life, David lacked a good friend he could be accountable to. (2Sam 11: 12-25)

Everyday connections -

Questions for you to consider

With the David and Jonathan story as a backdrop, and as you think about your relationship now with some of the people you consider to be your close friend(s)...

- What do you think are the essential qualities required to be a good friend?
- To what extent do you think you should put yourself out for your friend(s)?
- Where do you draw the line between doing things sacrificially for your friends and not being taken advantage of?
- Is your friend someone who would ask the 'hard questions' of you? ie confront you with issues they know that you may be struggling with?
- Are YOU someone who asks hard questions of your friends?
- Do you regularly talk about the Godstuff with your friend? (regardless of whether or not they're a Christian) Why can this sometimes be a struggle to do?

*“wounds from a friend can be trusted,
but an enemy multiplies kisses”*

Proverbs 27:6

ACTION

As we've looked at this topic of friendship, there's a good chance something has come

to mind for you that you feel you need to do. Maybe that's God giving you a nudge?

Here are some possible actions...

- Resolve to be more open and honest to your friend about your life – and tell them this is your plan
- If your friend is in a potentially bad situation, make sure you raise your concerns with them
- If you don't have an accountable relationship with someone, ask someone to have that role for you (asking hard questions about things like being a bulimic, pornography, jealousy, excessive concern over appearances, negative attitudes etc)
- If your friend is a Christian, maybe you need to set up specific time to talk about how things are going for each other on the God front (because otherwise that conversation may never happen)

To END it would be good to PRAY

A friend

What you need is a friend...

*A friend don't care about the decal on your bonnet,
The colour of your skin*

Or the dimensions of your wallet

Whatever you need it's yours if he's got it – that's a friend

He'll loan you his car for the weekend

He watches over the deep end

In case you or your family might fall

He asks for nothing in return

Except your love and concern (and that's all)

You don't have to be well bred

You don't have to be well read

You don't even have to be literate to understand

That a friend in the heart is worth two in the hand

Derek Lind

David & Jonathan

1 Samuel 19:1 Saul spoke with his son Jonathan and with all his servants about killing David. But Saul's son Jonathan took great delight in David. 2 Jonathan told David, "My father Saul is trying to kill you; therefore be on guard tomorrow morning; stay in a secret place and hide yourself. 3 I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you; if I learn anything I will tell you." 4 Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul, saying to him, "The king should not sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have been of good service to you; 5 for he took his life in his hand when he attacked the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced; why then will you sin against an innocent person by killing David without cause?" 6 Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan; Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death."

7 So Jonathan called David and related all these things to him. Jonathan then brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

1 Samuel 20:1 David fled from Naioth in Ramah. He came before Jonathan and said, "What have I done? What is my guilt? And what is my sin against your father that he is trying to take my life?"...

12 Jonathan said to David, "By the LORD, the God of Israel! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or on the third day, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you? 13 But if my father intends to do you harm, the LORD do so to Jonathan, and more also, if I do not disclose it to you, and send you away, so that you may go in safety. May the LORD be with you, as he has been with my father. 14 If I am still alive, show me the faithful love of the LORD; but if I die, 15 never cut off your faithful love from my house, even if the LORD were to cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." 16 Thus Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD seek out the enemies of David." 17 Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him; for he loved him as he loved his own life.

We continue the story after Jonathan had tried to cover for David's absence at a celebration...

30 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan. He said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? 31 For as long as the son of Jesse lives upon the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Now send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." 32 Then Jonathan answered his father Saul, "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" 33 But Saul threw his spear at him to strike him; so Jonathan knew that it was the decision of his father to put David to death. 34 Jonathan rose from the table in fierce anger and ate no food on the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, and because his father had disgraced him.

35 In the morning Jonathan went out into the field to the appointment with David, and with him was a little boy. 36 He said to the boy, "Run and find the arrows that I shoot." As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. 37 When the boy came to the place where Jonathan's arrow had fallen, Jonathan called after the boy and said, "Is the arrow not beyond you?" 38 Jonathan called after the boy, "Hurry, be quick, do not linger." So Jonathan's boy gathered up the arrows and came to his master. 39 But the boy knew nothing; only Jonathan and David knew the arrangement. 40 Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy

and said to him, "Go and carry them to the city." 41 As soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He bowed three times, and they kissed each other, and wept with each other; David wept the more. 42 Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since both of us have sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants, forever.'" He got up and left; and Jonathan went into the city.

Sometime later, after Jonathan and Saul had been killed in battle and David was made King...

2 Samuel 9:1 David asked, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul to whom I may show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 2 Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and he was summoned to David. The king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!" 3 The king said, "Is there anyone remaining of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" Ziba said to the king, "There remains a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." 4 The king said to him, "Where is he?" Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. 6 Mephibosheth son of Jonathan son of Saul came to David, and fell on his face and did obeisance. David said, "Mephibosheth!" He answered, "I am your servant." 7 David said to him, "Do not be afraid, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan; I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul, and you yourself shall eat at my table always."

The account of David trying to cover up his tracks regarding his adultery with Bathsheba. He tries to make it look as though Uriah her husband is the father of the baby, but when Uriah refuses to sleep with his wife while the army was in battle, David organises with Joab to have him killed. (note: Jonathan would probably have been David's chief commander rather than Joab if he were still alive)...

2 Sam 11:12 Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, 13 David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. 14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die." 16 As Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant warriors. 17 The men of the city came out and fought with Joab; and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite was killed as well. 18 Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting...

22 So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell. 23 The messenger said to David, "The men gained an advantage over us, and came out against us in the field; but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. 24 Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall; some of the king's servants are dead; and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." 25 David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab, 'Do not let this matter trouble you, for the sword devours now one and now another; press your attack on the city, and overthrow it.' And encourage him."