



David and Jonathan

WEEK 2

WARM-UP

- What is the best encouragement you've given or received? How did it affect you or the person you encouraged?
- Think of those who are closest to you. What makes them dependable and trustworthy?
- Has anyone gotten jealous of you? How did you respond to it?

WORD *¹As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ²And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. ³Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. **1 SAMUEL 18:1-3***

(Read also **1 SAMUEL 18:4-5**.)

In success and in challenges, we can feel recharged or strengthened when we receive encouragement from others. In the Bible, we see this happen in the friendship between David and Jonathan. They considered themselves to be close friends and were loyal to one another. As we fulfill God's call in our lives, it's important to build good relationships so that we may receive counsel and wisdom from those who have gone ahead of us and also encouragement and strength from those who walk alongside us. Today, let's look at the importance of helping others follow God and being with people who help us follow God, too.

1 | Look for people to encourage and help live for God.

³Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. 1 SAMUEL 18:3-4

After David defeated Goliath, Jonathan—the son of King Saul—saw something great in David. He gave his robe, armor, and weapons to David as a sign of great respect. When David used these, the Israelites recognized him as one acknowledged by a member of the royal family. Unknown to Jonathan, this act of friendship paved the way for David to fulfill his becoming king. Whether we know God’s call for them or not, our mindset should be to find people whom we can constantly encourage to live a life that honors God. We can help them grow in their journey of faith by giving our time, effort, or resources. Are there people you are helping in this season? How are you guiding them to be more like Christ?

2

Be with others who will help us carry out God's call for our lives.

And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

1 SAMUEL 18:5

Even though Jonathan was the son of King Saul, his humility led him to become good friends with David. Rather than being jealous of David's accomplishments as his father was, Jonathan helped David several times and even warned him of Saul's threats towards him (1 Samuel 20). Their friendship was very close, even until Jonathan's death (2 Samuel 1:17-27). In his lifetime, David also surrounded himself with good people in both the battlefield and leadership. As we obey God's call for our lives, we need to surround ourselves with people who will build us up and point us to God. Who are the people who mentor you and walk with you? How do they help you live out God's call for your life?

APPLICATION

- Aside from David and Jonathan's example, what do godly friendships look like? How should you view friendships based on today's discussion?
- Are there people you open up to and allow to speak into your life to help you live for God? How may you build a healthy relationship with them?
- Are you helping others live a godly life? Who are the people you can connect with this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the gift of friendship and for sending people who will challenge you to live for Him.
- Ask God to continue surrounding you with genuine friends who will help you fulfill God's call. Pray that you would not resort to comparison, but become an encouragement and a blessing to those around you.
- Pray that God would use you to be a good friend to others. Ask God to protect your friendships so that you may point others to Him.



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