

The word 'kindness' in 1 Samuel 20: 8, 14, 15, is the Hebrew word 'hesed' which actually translates 'unconditional, unrelenting, loyal love'. What does the word 'hesed' challenge us about our friendships?

Read 1 Samuel 20:41. Deep friendships bring vulnerability. Why do we struggle being vulnerable?

3. Characterised by Selflessness

What do you see in this story that shows a selfless attitude?

4. The Redeeming Power of Friendship

We can see in this story, how God was working through this relationship (e.g. 1 Samuel 20:42) to bring about His purposes. What similarities are there between the friendship of Jonathan, and the friendship of Jesus? (e.g. John 15: 15)

What does this story challenge us in regard to our current friendships (or lack of friendships)? How can we move from being a 'crowd of consumers', to a 'community of friends'?

Pray

Pray by thanking God for the people around us who we can call friends. Pray that God would strengthen our relationships, and help us to give to each other, and convict us if we are tempted to just take from others. Pray that God would be glorified through our friendships.



After God's Own Heart -DAVID-

Growth Group Study Guide Week 6

18 June 2023

"The Redeeming Power of Friendship" 1 Samuel 20: 1-17, 41-42

Series Overview:

Over seven weeks, we will study and reflect on a central character in the Old Testament; David. We will look at events leading up to his birth, as well as his development and faith in God. Our prayer is that we will grow closer to God through viewing the life of God's servant and friend called David; a man after God's own heart.

How would you define a good friend? What are the characteristics of this friendship?

Read 1 Samuel 20

We have been reminded over the last few weeks of this series, that King Saul is very insecure about his position, and jealous of young David who has been anointed by God to be the next king. Saul's son (who would normally be next in line for the throne) has developed a strong friendship with David. Saul is obsessed with eliminating David from the kingdom.

What stands out to you in this passage?

Put yourself in Saul's shoes. What are your thoughts?

Put yourself in Jonathan's shoes. What are your thoughts?

Put yourself in David's shoes. What are your thoughts?

The focus of this week's study is the deep relationship between David and Jonathan, and in today's sermon, we looked at four aspects of what this story tells us about friendship.

1. The Necessity of Friendship

How necessary are friendships to you? In what ways?

Reflect on the following quote:

"The friendship between Jonathan and David literally bracketed the evil and the vulnerability in this period in David's life. It was his friendship with Jonathan that made evil survivable."

Eugene Peterson

Can you think of a difficult time in your life where a friend made an important difference?

Reflect on Genesis 2: 18. What does this passage communicate about the need for others in our lives?

2. The Essence of Friendship

Read 1 Samuel 18: 1-4. How would you describe the concept of this covenant in today's culture and language?

In today's sermon we contrasted the difference between *covenant* and *consumer*, between giving and getting. How can we move from being less consumeristic, and more covenantal?