

1 Samuel 18:1-5 (ESV)

1 As 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. 2 And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And 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. 5 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 20:12-17, 30-34 (ESV)

12 And Jonathan said to David, "The LORD, the God of Israel, be witness! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you? 13 But should it please my father 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, 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 steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die; 15 and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." 16 And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD take vengeance on David's enemies." 17 And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul...

30 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and 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 on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." 32 Then Jonathan answered Saul his father, "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" 33 But Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him. So Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to death. 34 And Jonathan rose from the table in fierce anger and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had disgraced him.

Spiritual Friendship & Catalytic Community

David and Jonathans, BFFs

Opening Question: What qualities do you look for in a friend?

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5 and 1 Samuel 20:12-17, 30-34.

Background:

- David is the Hebrew shepherd who killed the giant Goliath with only a sling and a few smooth stones. Jonathan is Israel's prince and a bold warrior (see 1 Samuel 14:1-15). He is the firstborn son and heir of Saul, the nation's first king.
- A covenant is an agreement of commitment and loyalty, echoing God's relationship of commitment and loyalty to his people. Jonathan's royal robe marks him as the heir apparent and next in line for the throne.
- David marries Jonathan's sister and becomes the king's son-in-law, but Saul ultimately turns against David, fearing him as a threat and rival to the throne.

Explore Together:

1. *"The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David and Jonathan loved him as his own soul"* — What do you understand this language to mean? What is the spark behind their friendship? Would you say you've experience this sort of connection with someone outside of a romantic relationship?
2. Jonathan's responds to his connection with David by making a covenant with him and stripping himself of his robe, armor, and weapons. Why? What does it communicate to David? What does it say about their friendship moving forward?
3. What role does God play in Jonathan and David's partnership? How does their story reveal an aspect of God's heart?
4. What do Jonathan and David each gain because of their friendship? What do they each lose or lay down? Is it worth it?

Apply It:

- ➔ Think of a Christian brother or sister that you have "clicked" with and choose this week to intentionally go deeper.
 - Grab a meal and hear their story.
 - Share and pray with them about what you're celebrating, how you want to grow, or what you're struggling with.
 - Ask how you might encourage them forward in the way of Jesus.