

BETTER TOGETHER

Week 1

January 8–9, 2022

Wes Duff



WARM-UP

What are some of the most important qualities you look for in a friend?

DISCUSS

Let's look at a sampling of verses that show the friendship between King David and Jonathon (King Saul's son).

Read 1 Samuel 18:1–16; 19:1–10

- Compare the qualities you look for in a friend to those you see in the friendship between Jonathan and David here.
• Why is it important to have a friend you can count on and confide in?
• How does having a friendship based on a commitment to God first rather than to each other strengthen a friendship?

Read 1 Samuel 20:1–4, 41–42

- What does it feel like to have a friend who says what Jonathan did here: "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you"?
• Why do you think true friendships are undervalued in today's culture and appear to often be shallow friendships rather than deep friendships?
• What tough decisions did David and Jonathan have to make because of their friendship and commitment to God? (Skim through 1 Samuel 18–20 to see how their friendship was tested. Note how family relationships and other challenges came into play.)
• Describe a time when you had to make tough decisions to support a friend.
• Several times in these three chapters, it mentions Jonathan and David loving one another as they loved themselves. What does that mean in a friendship?

Note how this aligns with the command throughout Scripture to love your neighbor as yourself.

- Jonathan released any personal ambition to support David as God's chosen king for Israel. Read 1 John 3:16 and compare this mindset with that of Jesus.
• How does a friendship built on Christ strengthen and encourage you for spiritual battles you face?
o In what ways may a true Christ-centered friendship be costly to you?
o What are some things that offset that cost?

NEXT STEPS

- Would you say your friendships are godly friendships? In what ways do your friends help you to grow stronger in your faith?
• If you don't have godly friendships, what do you need to change to build one up?
• What can you do to become a better friend to someone else?
• What step or commitment are you going to make this week to either make or strengthen a godly friendship?

PRAYER

Partner with 2–3 others in your group to share prayer needs with each other.

Notes for praying for others this week:

Blank lines for writing prayer notes.