

WEEK

Welcome & Open with a Brief Prayer

Icebreaker

Scripture for the Week (Please read it to the group):

1 Samuel 20:16-17 — “So Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, saying, ‘May the LORD destroy all your enemies!’ And Jonathan made David reaffirm his vow of friendship again, for Jonathan loved David as he loved himself.” (NLT)

Overview:

David and Jonathan’s friendship is characterized by faithfulness and self-sacrifice. Despite all odds, they remain loyal to each other. Jonathan puts aside his personal aspirations to succeed his father, Saul, as king of Israel. Jonathan recognizes the hand of God upon David and bows to God’s will. The remarkable aspect of this story is that Jonathan holds no bitterness or anger against either God or David. Instead, he is David’s greatest ally, encourager, and protector. Although he isn’t in the limelight, Jonathan’s role in the history of Israel is super significant. He has an important role. God sees Jonathan’s faithfulness and obedience, which counts for eternity. David goes on to rule Israel, but Jonathan is used in a mighty way to bring God’s plan to fulfillment.

Watch Video

QUESTION

1. What are characteristics of real, authentic friendship or healthy relationships?
2. Can you share an example of an authentic, healthy friendship in your own life or in someone’s life that you’re close to?
3. Everyone has been given talents, giftings, and positions. Some are more visible and applauded than others. What gifts, talents, or positions are valued in our culture today?
4. How do you handle the gifts, talents, and positions of your friends and relationships? Are you an ally, adversary, or somewhere in between?
5. In past weeks, we’ve talked about trust in God and comparison. Based on this story about Jonathan and David, how do you think Jonathan probably handled those issues in his life?
6. Does Jonathan’s role in David’s life give you new perspective on friendships and relationships and how God might use you to be an encourager and supporter of others?

To Consider: Invite God to help you be a friend, like Jonathan was to David, to those closest to you.

PRAYER

Ask for prayer requests. (Remind the group to share only request per person due to time.)
Closing Prayer—Include those requests in your closing prayer.