



Message-based Study

Date: September 12, 2021

Message: "Why Can't We be Friends: Jonathan and David"

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Video is available online at [messages.visitccc.com](https://www.messages.visitccc.com)

Connection

What movie or show depicts a friendship you enjoy watching? Why?

Cheer and Challenge

- How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.
- Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

Content

Five Friendship Principles from the friendship of Jonathan and David:

1. **Affection:** emotional connection from one person to another

"After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David." I Samuel 18:1

Romans 12:15 and I Corinthians 12:25-26 give some more details about affection. Looking at these verses, as well as the one above from I Samuel, define "affection".

As you consider what affection looks like, do you feel like you need more of this in a specific relationship? If so, with whom? _____ Take a moment in prayer asking God to pour affection into your heart.

2. **Devotion:** loyalty mixed with enthusiasm

"Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself." I Samuel 18:3

Read Romans 12:4-5. What phrase in these verses could be used to define "devotion"?

Often devotion is exercised when life is difficult. It can require you sacrifice to show your commitment to the other person. How have you demonstrated devotion lately?

3. **Provision:** meeting a need, supplying something that helps another experience success

"Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt. Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully." I Samuel 18:4-5a

Summarize what Galatians 6:2 and Romans 15:14 add to the idea of "provision".

Reflecting on your life, who provided something for you at just the right time? Or does someone come to mind who you could provide for right now? If so, who and what?

4. **Protection:** cherishing and shielding another from harm

"The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him... So Saul listened to Jonathan and vowed, "As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be killed." But one day when Saul was sitting at home...Saul hurled his spear at David." I Samuel 19:4, 6, 9

Read the section where the excerpts above are found, I Samuel 19:1-10 and I Samuel 20. Jonathan went to great lengths to protect David. What strikes you about how Jonathan protected David?

Do you know of someone who needs to be protected physically? Or protected from verbal attacks? Or protected from walking into sin?

5. **Inspiration:** providing mental and emotional stimulation to do something

"Tell me what I can do to help you...Go in peace, for we have sworn loyalty to each other in the Lord's name." I Samuel 20:4, 42

The words you say can hold tremendous power in someone's life. What do the following verses have to say about using our words to inspire others?

I Peter 4:10

Hebrews 10:24

I Thessalonians 5:11

Look over what you wrote above, asking the Lord who you need to inspire. Who comes to mind?

Commitment

How will you demonstrate the above principles, establishing yourself as the "good neighbor" this week?

"I will _____."



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

Jesus perfectly demonstrates affection, devotion, provision, protection and inspiration. Spend a moment in prayer for a specific friend, asking that they may come to know Jesus as their friend.

Continue Digging Deeper

1. Complete the YouVersion Bible reading plan called, "Finding Deep Friendships in a Shallow World" (<https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/4336-known-by-dick-and-ruth-foth>).

2. "Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art...
It has no survival value;
rather it is one of those things which gives value to survival."
- C. S. Lewis

The Bible is clear that friendship is important and that you are made for relationship. Discover more about friendship by thinking on the questions below.

- What makes it difficult in today's culture to cultivate genuine friendship? In what ways has technology and busyness affected friendships in a positive and negative way?
- What qualities does Proverbs 27:1-10 suggest are needed for healthy friendships/relationships? What are some practices of good friends?
- What advice on friendship do you find in Proverbs 12:26, 17:17 and 18:24?
- Would you describe yourself as good friend to others? Why or why not?
- What is one small step that you can take to be a more encouraging friend?

3. List the qualities you value in a friend. Go back and circle those that you believe you demonstrate on a regular basis. Consider the ones that you did not circle. How could you be more consistent in demonstrating these qualities in word and/or action? Using the concordance in the back of the Bible or an online resource, look up verses that speak to friendship. What qualities would you add to the list?

4. Listen to the song, "Shepherd" by David Crowder (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YckXtIs-DO0>) and thank the Lord for His strength in protecting you. What did you learn from this song about how God protects you? Read I Corinthians 13:7. If love protects, how could you apply some of those same protective principles found in how God shepherds us to your friendships?

5. Live ~ We live in a culture where loneliness has become an epidemic. How can you be a friend to someone and live out some of the qualities listed above? What does it cost you to be a good friend? Check out this article for some ideas : "6 Costs of Real Friendships" by Jen Thorn (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/6-costs-of-real-friendships/>)