



STUDY GUIDE

GOD IS FOR ME: Week 4 10.6.13

[set up]

What makes a person go from an acquaintance, to a friend, to a best friend?

What are the primary words that come to mind when describing a best friend?

[digging deeper]

Read 1 Sam. 18-20 before coming to lifegroup or before doing this study. Underline, highlight or take notes on anything you see in those three chapters that gives special insight to David and Jonathan's friendship.

What words come to your mind to capture and describe the friendship between David and Jonathan? Are there any words that come to mind here that you did not think of earlier?

1 Sam. 16:21 records that Saul loved David. Why is it then that we see Saul become threatened by David and morph into a murderous and hateful enemy of David (1 Sam. 18:29)?

1 Sam. 18:3 records that Jonathan loved David. Why is it that we see Jonathan increase in his love and commitment to David as a friend rather than feel threatened by David and decide to partner with his Dad to kill him (1 Sam. 19:1)?

What attributes and dynamics of David and Jonathan's friendship do you find desirable and worth modeling or pursuing in your own friendships?

What do the verses below teach us about strong friendship? (If you are in a LifeGroup, you can split up the verses to read)

Job. 2:11-13 Prov. 12:26 Prov. 13:20 Prov. 17:17 Prov. 18:24 Prov. 22:24,25
Prov. 27:9, 17

What insight does God give us about "friendship busters" in these verses? Have you ever lost a friendship because of one of these?

Prov. 16:28 Prov. 17:9 Ps. 41:9 Ps. 55:12-14 1 Cor. 15:22

Read Eccl. 4:9-12 and 1 Sam. 23:16. What difference does it make to have a friendship that is founded and strengthened by a relationship with the Lord?

This series in the life of David is called "God is for me" taken from Psalm 56:9. How is the relationship between David and Jonathan another way we see how God was for David and with David? How do these kinds of friendships in our lives reveal how God is for us and with us?

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Read John 15:12-15. Is it weird to think of Jesus as a friend? How has Jesus been a “friend like no other” to you? What can you do to improve your friendship with Jesus?

[living it out]

Who are the “Jonathans” in my life?

How do the Jonathans in my life help me stay faithful to Christ and to the ones I love?

How do the Jonathans in my life help me live on mission for Christ?

How can you be a better Jonathan to the friends in your life?

Reach out and connect with one of your “Jonathans” this week and let them know how much their friendship means to you. Ask how you can be a better friend to them. Ask how you can pray for them and pray for them in that moment. (in person, facetime/skype, on the phone, etc). Commit to them that you will pray for them every day this week. (recommend putting an alarm in your phone or a note somewhere you will see it as a reminder)

If you do not have a Jonathan in your life right now, how do you find that kind of friend? (notice... did David seek it out or force it?) You can pray right now and ask God for a Jonathan in your life, to come along in the right moment in the right way. You can also ask God to help you be a Jonathan to others who are looking for one.