

THE MAKING OF A KING

Part 3: Who's your Jonathan? Who's your David? – 1 Samuel 18-23

Their commitment of mutual LOYALTY	1 Sam. 18:1-5
A PARITY covenant promise	vs. 1-3
Jonathan transfers STATUS	vs. 4
Their commitment of mutual PROTECTION	1 Sam. 19-20
Jonathan SHELTERS David	vs. 19:1-7
David pledges ' HESED ' to Jonathan	vs. 20:10-17
Their commitment of GENERATIONAL care	1 Sam. 20:35-42
David's HUMILITY and RESPECT for Jonathan	vs. 41
Looking out for the KIDS	vs. 42
Their commitment of mutual ENCOURAGEMENT	1 Sam. 23:15-18
Jonathan's SPIRITUAL encouragement	vs. 16
Jonathan AFFIRMS God's plan is working out	vs. 17-18

Applications:

Do you have a Jonathan or a David? Are you willing to be a Jonathan or a David? Are you willing to 'covenant' together with a friend... to commit to being mutually **loyal**, offer mutual **protection**, **spiritual** and **emotional** encouragement, and **generational** care?

If you don't currently have a Jonathan: Are you attending places where these friends can be found?

Closing Quote: *'I went out **to find** a friend and could not find one anywhere. I went out **to be** a friend and found that friends are everywhere.'*

Auburn Grace Community Church – October 11th, 2026

Life Application Questions – October 11, 2026

1 Samuel 18:1 *Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.*

DISCOVER

1. Are you more likely to have many casual friendships or a few close friends? Compare and contrast casual and close friends. What does it mean to 'covenant' with a friend?
2. For the men, what type of man would you want to go into spiritual battle with? Women, who's the one you would want next to you when things get real?
3. Why is it important for men to have men friends and for women to have women friends? What might be shared that would be inappropriate amongst those of the opposite sex?
4. In 2 Samuel 1:26, David called Jonathan's love "better than the love of women." What does deep, non-romantic friendship look like in a culture that often undervalues it?

EXPLORE

1. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5. What was the significance of Jonathan giving David his robe, sword, and armor? Describe the heart of Jonathan based on this interaction. What would justify Jonathan's seeming disloyalty to his father Saul?
2. Read 1 Samuel 19:1-7. If we are in the middle of a conflict between a friend and someone in authority, how should we discern whether to defend our friend or submit to authority? Why did Jonathan risk his own life for David? What evidence is there that Jonathan's loyalty was rooted in faith in God's purposes rather than mere personal affection?
3. Read 1 Samuel 20:12-13 and 1 Samuel 23:16-18. What might have happened if Jonathan had not kept his commitments secret? What does it mean to encourage someone in God?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. What does the writer mean when he says, "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor"? How does working or living alongside others multiply fruitfulness compared to going it alone?

EXPERIENCE

1. How can you practice the kind of transparent communication that Jonathan and David modeled? Transparency in communication can feel risky. In what ways do you see transparent communication as being valuable?
2. If you hoped to establish a deep friendship with someone, where do you think such a friend could be found? Explain your response.
3. In what ways can you advocate for a friend behind the scenes, the way Jonathan spoke to his father Saul on behalf of David?

"I went out to find a friend and could not find one anywhere. I went out to be a friend and found that friends are everywhere."

PRAY

Almighty God, clearly, You created us with a need and desire for covenant friends. You model the ultimate unity in the Trinity. Likewise, we want to love our friends as ourselves. It is so fulfilling despite the risk of being vulnerable and committed to friends. In Jesus' name, amen.