

# FRIENDSHIPS

This is one of the best stories in the Bible on friendships. Jonathan was the son of King Saul. King Saul became jealous of David after David killed Goliath, and plotted to kill David. Jonathan found out about it and his friendship with David was put to the test.

*Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David and warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there. I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I'll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out." Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?" Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.' Samuel 18-20*

1. As you think about the story of David and Jonathan, what immediately comes to mind?

This is beautiful.  This is corny.  Sounds like a movie.  Wish I had a friend like that.

2. If you had been Jonathan, and knew your father was threatening to kill your best friend, what would you have thought?  There must be something wrong with my dad.

There must be something wrong with my friend.  There must be something wrong with me.  
 I would feel terribly torn.

3. If you realized your father was doing this to save the throne for you, how'd you have felt?

unworthy  disgusted  torn  appreciative  I would stay out of it.

4. Who was your best friend when you were a kid? What one experience did you have together that you especially remember?

5. As you think back, what was it about this person that brought the two of you together?

doing fun things together  liking the same things  sharing personal things  
 getting in trouble together  keeping each other's confidence  letting each other have space  
 being there for each other when one of us was hurting  
 going to church together / praying together

6. When it comes to making friends, what do you do? Finish the sentence by picking ONE in each category: "I usually..."

make friends	quickly	slowly
change friends	constantly	never
break off friendships	easily	painfully
choose friends	wisely	unwisely

7. What qualities do you look for when you choose a friend? top 3  similar lifestyle

honesty  generosity  spiritual depth  easy to talk to  common interests  
 loyalty  good sense of humor  ethnic background  speaks his or her mind  
 other:

8. What is your biggest barrier to having closer friendships?  acting like I don't need them

being jealous  hiding my feelings  having been hurt in the past  
 focusing on things rather than people  other:

9. How hard is it for you to trust this group with the heavy stuff in your life? What could help?

10. How can your friends in this group pray for you right now?