



Faithful Friends and a Foolish Father

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | 1 Samuel 20:1–42

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

ICE BREAKER:

Who was your best friend growing up? Describe what made it such a good friendship.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Read 1 Sam. 20:30-31. Consider the weight of Jonathan's decision. He decided to honor David as God's anointed one even though Jonathan would have been next to assume the throne otherwise. What kind of conviction would lead a person to make such a sacrificial decision? How does this help us understand the depth of the friendship between Jonathan and David?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL: In the New Testament, commitment to Jesus is everything, just like how Jonathan was committed to the Lord foremost and then also to David. Read Luke 14:25-26 and Matthew 12:48-50. What does commitment to Jesus look like for us?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Discuss why one's relationship to God is so important to our friendships with one another.

Consider the points of application for friendship: 1) give the benefit of the doubt, 2) take up each other's cause, 3) tell the truth, 4) keep promises at personal cost. How can those help you this week? Share and pray for one another.

PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

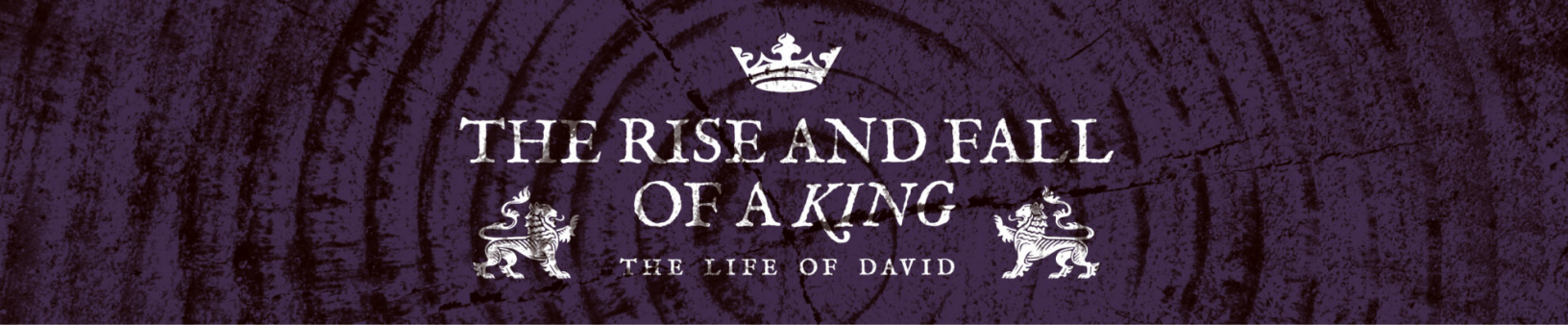
Spend a few minutes with your kids helping them decide on a friend who may need extra care and encouragement. Ask them what they want to do to encourage them. (Some examples: write a note, share a toy, pray for them). Help them to do this for their friend.

For your spouse: Our marriages are built on friendship, and many of the principles studied apply here as well. Is there one area that you can do in your marriage this week? 1) give the benefit of the doubt, 2) take up each other's cause, 3) tell the truth, 4) keep promises at personal cost

FURTHER STUDY:

People sometimes read into the text (what isn't there) about the type of relationship David and Jonathan had. Helpful insights are at crossway.org/articles and search for the article 'Were David and Jonathan Lovers?' by Kevin DeYoung.

Another helpful article on friendship at the Crossway site is 'A Brief Biblical Theology of Friendship.' And for more articles, go to DesiringGod.org and select one to read: 'What makes a true friend?' — 'Why is friendship hard for men?' — 'The sweet ache of friendship' — 'Difficult friendships are good for you' — 'Friends Come and Friends Go'



THE RISE AND FALL OF A KING

THE LIFE OF DAVID

This page gets us into the text for the next sermon. The more familiarity we have with God's Word, the better we can see God and all that He has for us.

In the days leading up to next weekend, set aside a few minutes to read the text and reflect on these questions. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' - Psalm 119:18

1. Describe the various options — the various paths David could choose — when he was in the cave with Saul. What were some motivations or reasons that would support each option?

2. What do David's actions tell us about David's view of God?

3. What's surprising about Saul's response to David?

4 How does this story underscore the description of David: 'A man after God's own heart' (1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22)

5. What in this text confuses you?

6. What in this text compels you?

7. Ask God for a David-like perspective: God-sized with the greatest desire to honor the Lord. How might that help in how you see your life and in how you act this week?