

# The Life of David

## • Lesson Three •

### David's Bond with Jonathan

#### *A Good Christian Friend Is Always There for You*

1. The best friend is a fellow believer
2. A Christian friend is with you during happy times
3. A Christian friend is with you during trials

## Worship

### Romans 12:9-21.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, you are a God of love. Thank you for showing your perfect love by sacrificing your Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins. Enable us to reflect your love in how we treat others. May David and Jonathan's brotherly love and devotion for each other be our pattern. Amen.

## Introduction

You are wrestling with a serious illness and you need support. What qualities would you like your friends to have at a time like this?

## Studying God's Word

### The best friend is a fellow believer

#### Read 1 Samuel 14:1-14

1. What did Jonathan say to his armor-bearer in verse 6 that showed he had faith in God?
2. How does that compare with what David said in 1 Samuel 17:47: *“All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands”*?
3. Why would a fellow Christian be a better friend than an unbeliever at crucial times in your life?

#### His Word in My Life

What can you as a Christian parent do when you see one of your children being corrupted by bad company?

Discuss the advantage of a Christian school (elementary, high school, college) for establishing friendships for our young people.

A husband says, “Never mind the dog. My *wife* is my best friend!” There’s truth in that candid comment. A husband and wife are one for life. They should be best friends, trusting each other implicitly. How does the bond of a common faith promote friendship between husband and wife?

*Friends come in different sizes, shapes, colors, and faiths. But when there are crises in a Christian’s life, the best friend is a fellow believer who can counsel that Christian according to their common faith.*

## **A Christian friend is with you during happy times**

### **Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5**

What did Jonathan give David? What did that indicate about his feelings toward David?

2. What principle does this illustrate about the relationship between our possessions and our friends?

#### **His Word in My Life**

In Romans 12:15 Paul instructs us to “*rejoice with those who rejoice.*” How is this different from the way the world often acts? Why can a Christian follow Paul’s instruction?

Love reveals itself in giving. Jesus loved us. Jesus died for us. Jonathan loved David. Jonathan gave his possessions to him. What are some specific ways we can give of ourselves to show love to one another?

Proverbs 16:28 says, “. . . *and a gossip separates close friends.*” Why do rumors and gossip undo friendships that took years to build?

*A close bond develops between Christian friends. During happy times in their lives, they can share thoughts, ideas, feelings, and even possessions with each other.*

## **A Christian friend is with you during trials**

### **Read 1 Samuel 20**

1. Why couldn’t Jonathan believe that his father, Saul, was trying to kill David?

2. Once Jonathan realized that David's life was in peril, what was he willing to do?
3. Compare what Jonathan's armor-bearer said to Jonathan in 1 Samuel 14:7 (*"Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul"*) with what Jonathan said to David in 1 Samuel 20:4 (*"Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you"*).

### His Word in My Life

If you have a friend dying in the hospital, in a nursing home, or at home, how can you imitate Jonathan? (See Romans 12:15.) Which of Paul's words apply in this situation?

*"Fair-weather friends" are a dime a dozen. A true Christian friend stays with you during the trials of life.*

## Summary

The epistle of 1 John is known as the "Letter of Love." Love is mentioned 46 times in the book. Our love comes from God's love for us. God's love comes first. Ours follows.

Our "actions of love" could be classified as fruits of faith or good works that proceed from a life of sanctification. They never earn our way to eternal salvation, for Christ has taken care of that. Nevertheless, they must be present to show the love that glows in our hearts. Consider 3 John 11: *"Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God."* We cannot see inside another person's heart. But we really don't have to. Faith shows itself by the fruits it produces. Likewise, love shows itself with *"actions and in truth"* (1 John 3:18).

### Read 1 John 3:11-20

1. What does verse 14 mean, *"Anyone who does not love remains in death"*?
2. Using the way John speaks about love, describe David and Jonathan's love for each other.