

# Bible Stories for Adults

## David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 18 - 20

### Opening

Gathering: Tell about someone who has been a true friend to you. How have they shown their love?

Today's Focus: David and Jonathan's friendship is an example for us to demonstrate Christ's love to others.

Key Verses: *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.* John 15:13

*A friend loves at all times.* Proverbs 17:17

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

Prince Jonathan (1 Samuel 13:2-5)

Who was Jonathan?

1 Samuel 14:49 = Saul's oldest son, prince, heir apparent

When do we first hear of Jonathan?

1 Samuel 13:2 = Saul put 1/3 of his army under him

What did Jonathan do with his troops at Gibeah? = Philistines & Israelites prepared for battle

1 Samuel 13:3-4 = He attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba

Jonathan at Gilgal (1 Samuel 14)

How did Jonathan show his faith at Gilgal while the rest of the army melted away in fear?

1 Samuel 14:6 = *Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, by many or by few*

He had not inquired of the Lord. How would he know if God was with him?

1 Samuel 14:8-10 = *...that will be a sign to us that the Lord has given them into our hands*

Was Jonathan correct in trusting God for success?

1 Samuel 14:13-14 = They killed 20 Philistines

How did God use Jonathan's success to save Israel from this massive army?

1 Samuel 14:15-16 = God sent earthquake & panic to Philistine army & army melted away

What did Jonathan do during the mop-up effort of this battle?

1 Samuel 14:24, 27 = He ate honey, not knowing that his father had commanded no one to eat

What happened as a result of this situation? = Saul broke promise with God to please men

1 Samuel 14:43-45 = Saul planned to execute him for disobedience

New Family Ties (1 Samuel 18:1-9)

Where did David live after he killed Goliath?

1 Samuel 18:2 = In Saul's house with Saul's family

What did Jonathan think of this new addition to the family? = Clothes symbolized giving self

1 Samuel 18:1, 3-4 = Loved him as himself; Gave his robe, tunic, sword, bow & belt

What did other members of the royal family think of the new addition?

1 Samuel 18:20 = His sister, Michal, was in love with David

How did others feel about David?

1 Samuel 18:5 = God gave him success in everything, Pleased everyone

How did Saul feel about David?

1 Samuel 18:6-9 = He kept a jealous eye on David

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### Saul's Jealousy (1 Samuel 18:10-16)

How serious was Saul's jealousy?

1 Samuel 18:10-11 = He tried to kill David twice by throwing spear

What did Saul do to get David out of his sight?

1 Samuel 18:12-14 = Sent him away on military campaigns

Did Saul feel better about David when he brought success to the military?

1 Samuel 18:15-16 = No, he was afraid of him

### Just Call Me Dad (1 Samuel 18:17-29)

What had been rumored that Saul promised to do for whoever killed Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:25 = Give wealth, daughter in marriage, family tax exempt

Did Saul offer his daughter to David in marriage as was rumored?

1 Samuel 18:17 = Yet, but with the intent that the Philistines might pursue & kill David

Did Saul's tactic work?

1 Samuel 18:18-19 = No, David was too humble. Merab went to another man

How did Saul try again?

1 Samuel 18:20-22 = He pushed for David to marry his second daughter, Michal

### The Bride Price (1 Samuel 18:23-29)

How did Saul play on David's humility this time to further his intent?

1 Samuel 18:23-25 = He named a bride price of 100 P's, hoping the P's would kill him first

How did David respond to Saul's price?

1 Samuel 18:26-27 = He was pleased and brought twice as many (200)

Did David's extra effort please Saul? = God blessed David with success, adding to Saul's jealousy

1 Samuel 18:28-30 = No, he saw God with David & was enemy rest of life

### David Protected by Saul's Kids (1 Samuel 19:1-17)

What did Jonathan do when he heard that his dad wanted to kill David?

1 Samuel 19:1-3 = Warned David and helped him hide

How did Jonathan stand up to his dad for David?

1 Samuel 19:4-7 = Convinced Saul that David was benefit, not detriment

Was Saul's acceptance of David permanent? = Spear into wall = shows force in attempt

1 Samuel 19:8-10 = After David had another victory, Saul tried to spear him again

How did Michal save David when she heard that her dad wanted to kill him?

1 Samuel 19:11-13 (11-17) = Helped him escape, used idol as sick David in bed

### David Protected by Someone Greater (1 Samuel 19:18-24)

To whom did David flee? = Naioth was likely a group of homes in Ramah where prophets lived

1 Samuel 19:18 = To Samuel at Ramah

What happened when Saul learned that David was in Ramah?

1 Samuel 19:19-20 = He sent men to get David, but they were filled with the Spirit & prophesied

Did Saul recognize and accept that God was protecting David?

1 Samuel 19:21-22 = No, he sent two more groups who also prophesied, then went himself

How did God protect David when Saul went himself?

1 Samuel 19:23-24 = Put His Spirit on Saul and he also prophesied

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### Dad Wouldn't Do That (1 Samuel 20:1-11)

Where did David go after Saul pursued him at Ramah?

1 Samuel 20:1-2 = To his best friend Jonathan

Why did Jonathan believe David was safe with Saul?

1 Samuel 19:6 = Saul had taken an oath to God that *David will not be put to death*

Why did David think Jonathan was ignorant of Saul's intent to kill him?

1 Samuel 20:3 = Saul knew David was Jonathan's friend, Didn't want to upset Jonathan

What test did David devise to prove Saul's intent to Jonathan?

1 Samuel 20:4-7 = Watch Saul's response to David missing festival dinner

How did David have Jonathan think through his commitment to David? = Jonathan showed loyalty

1 Samuel 20:8-9 (8-11) = Reminded him of their covenant (18:3), Gave him an out

### A Friend You Can Count On (1 Samuel 20:12-23)

Did Jonathan agree with this plan?

1 Samuel 20:12-13 = Yes. He promised to let David know his safety

How did Jonathan and David affirm their friendship at this point of crisis?

1 Samuel 20:14-17, 23 = They made and reaffirmed oaths to each other, God as witness

How would Jonathan get word to David without letting Saul find David?

1 Samuel 20:18-22 = Shoot arrows, Words to retriever are code to David

### The Test (1 Samuel 20:24-31)

What happened on the first night of the festival? = Jewish days start at sundown, 1<sup>st</sup> day was same day

1 Samuel 20:24-26 = Nothing. Saul assumed David had become unclean

What happened on the second night of the festival?

1 Samuel 20:27-29 = Saul asked where David was; Jonathan gave planned answer

How did Saul respond to Jonathan's answer? = Hebrew idiom denigrates Jonathan, not his mother

1 Samuel 20:30 = He got mad at Jonathan for siding with David

Why did Saul feel that Jonathan should also want David dead?

1 Samuel 20:31 = David threatened Jonathan's inheritance of the throne

Was Jonathan concerned with protecting the throne?

1 Samuel 23:15-18 = Jonathan recognized and accepted God's plan of David as king

### Saying Goodbye (1 Samuel 20:32-42)

How serious was Saul's intent to kill David?

1 Samuel 20:32-33 = Tried to kill his son Jonathan for protecting David

How did Jonathan react once he knew his father wanted to kill David?

1 Samuel 20:34-35a = He grieved, didn't eat that night, left in morning to give sign to David

Did he give David the secret sign as he promised?

1 Samuel 20:35b-40 = Yes, but couldn't just leave without saying goodbye to his best friend

How upset was David that he would have to leave his friend?

1 Samuel 20:41 = He bowed before Jonathan & cried with him

What were their last words before David left?

1 Samuel 20:42 = God is witness to our sworn friendship

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### A Lasting Friendship (2 Samuel 9)

Did Jonathan end up serving under David as he had said?

1 Samuel 31:2 = No, he was killed in battle by the Philistines

How did David respond to this?

2 Samuel 1:4, 11-12, 17, 26 = He grieved and wrote a song to mourn loss of Jonathan and Saul

Did this story of loving friendship between David and Jonathan end at this time?

2 Samuel 9:1, 3b, 6-7 = No, he took in and provided for Jonathan's crippled son Mephibosheth

### Be a Friend (Proverbs 17:17)

As a friend, what times do you love?

Proverbs 17:17 = *A friend loves at all times*

As a friend, how much can you love?

1 Samuel 18:1 = As yourself

As a friend, how close do you get?

Proverbs 18:24 = Closer than a brother

### What is a Friend? (John 15:13-17)

What is the greatest way a friend can show his love?

John 15:13 = *that he lay down his life for his friends*

How do we show that we are Jesus' friends?

John 15:14 = *You are my friends if you do what I command*

What does Jesus command?

John 15:17 = *This is my command: Love each other*

How does Jesus show that He has called us friends?

John 15:15 = I have told you everything My Father has revealed

Why did Jesus choose us?

John 15:16 = *To go and bear fruit to our friends - fruit that will last*

### Closing Prayer

### Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What friends have I loved as myself? Has my love for my friends been apparent to them?  
(1 Samuel 18:1; 2 Samuel 15:31-34; 16:16-19; 17:6-7, 14-16; Job 6:14; Mark 12:30-31)
2. When have I been jealous of others? How have I acted toward others in jealousy?  
(1 Samuel 18:9-11; Proverbs 27:4; Romans 13:13-14; 1 Corinthians 13:4)
3. When have I said or done something to another with less than honorable motives?  
(1 Samuel 18:17-29; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Proverbs 16:2; James 4:3)
4. How have I stood up for a friend despite possible risk to me?  
(1 Samuel 19:4-7; 20:30-33; Proverbs 18:24; Matthew 9:11; 11:19; John 15:13-17)
5. Can my friends count on me? Will I ever desert them in time of need?  
(1 Samuel 20; Psalm 41:9; 88:8; Proverbs 17:9; 19:4, 7; Matthew 26:47-50; Acts 24:33)