**Becoming a Woman After God’s Own Heart**

**Life Lessons from David**

**Lesson 2: Being a True Friend**

**1 Samuel 18:6-29, 20:1-42, 23:16**

**1 Samuel 18:6-29**

**6**When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. **7**As they danced, they sang:

“Saul has slain his thousands,
    and David his tens of thousands.”

**8**Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?” **9**And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

**10**The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand **11**and he hurled it, saying to himself, “I’ll pin David to the wall.” But David eluded him twice.

**12**Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed from Saul. **13**So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. **14**In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him. **15**When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. **16**But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

**17**Saul said to David, “Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the Lord.” For Saul said to himself, “I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!”

**18**But David said to Saul, “Who am I, and what is my family or my clan in Israel, that I should become the king’s son-in-law?”**19**Sowhen the time came for Merab, Saul’s daughter, to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah.

**20**Now Saul’s daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased. **21**“I will give her to him,” he thought, “so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” So Saul said to David, “Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law.”

**22**Then Saul ordered his attendants: “Speak to David privately and say, ‘Look, the king likes you, and his attendants all love you; now become his son-in-law.’”

**23**They repeated these words to David. But David said, “Do you think it is a small matter to become the king’s son-in-law? I’m only a poor man and little known.”

**24**When Saul’s servants told him what David had said, **25**Saul replied, “Say to David, ‘The king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.’” Saul’s plan was to have David fall by the hands of the Philistines.

**26**When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king’s son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed, **27**David took his men with him and went out and killed two hundred Philistines and brought back their foreskins. They counted out the full number to the king so that David might become the king’s son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.

**28**When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David, **29**Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days.

**1 Samuel 20:1-42**

**20**Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, “What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to kill me?”

**2**“Never!” Jonathan replied. “You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn’t do anything, great or small, without letting me know. Why would he hide this from me? It isn’t so!”

**3**But David took an oath and said, “Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said to himself, ‘Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.’ Yet as surely as the Lord lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death.”

**4**Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you want me to do, I’ll do for you.”

**5**So David said, “Look, tomorrow is the New Moon feast, and I am supposed to dine with the king; but let me go and hide in the field until the evening of the day after tomorrow. **6**If your father misses me at all, tell him, ‘David earnestly asked my permission to hurry to Bethlehem, his hometown, because an annual sacrifice is being made there for his whole clan.’ **7**If he says, ‘Very well,’ then your servant is safe. But if he loses his temper, you can be sure that he is determined to harm me. **8**As for you, show kindness to your servant, for you have brought him into a covenant with you before the Lord. If I am guilty, then kill me yourself! Why hand me over to your father?”

**9**“Never!” Jonathan said. “If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn’t I tell you?”

**10**David asked, “Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?”

**11**“Come,” Jonathan said, “let’s go out into the field.” So they went there together.

**12**Then Jonathan said to David, “I swear by the Lord, the God of Israel, that I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know? **13**But if my father intends to harm you, may the Lord deal with Jonathan, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away in peace. May the Lord be with you as he has been with my father. **14**But show me unfailing kindness like the Lord’s kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, **15**and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth.”

**16**So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord call David’s enemies to account.” **17**And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

**18**Then Jonathan said to David, “Tomorrow is the New Moon feast. You will be missed, because your seat will be empty.**19**The day after tomorrow, toward evening, go to the place where you hid when this trouble began, and wait by the stone Ezel. **20**I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I were shooting at a target. **21**Then I will send a boy and say, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I say to him, ‘Look, the arrows are on this side of you; bring them here,’ then come, because, as surely as the Lord lives, you are safe; there is no danger. **22**But if I say to the boy, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you,’ then you must go, because the Lord has sent you away. **23**And about the matter you and I discussed—remember, the Lord is witness between you and me forever.”

**24**So David hid in the field, and when the New Moon feast came, the king sat down to eat. **25**He sat in his customary place by the wall, opposite Jonathan, and Abner sat next to Saul, but David’s place was empty. **26**Saul said nothing that day, for he thought, “Something must have happened to David to make him ceremonially unclean—surely he is unclean.” **27**But the next day, the second day of the month, David’s place was empty again. Then Saul said to his son Jonathan, “Why hasn’t the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?”

**28**Jonathan answered, “David earnestly asked me for permission to go to Bethlehem. **29**He said, ‘Let me go, because our family is observing a sacrifice in the town and my brother has ordered me to be there. If I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away to see my brothers.’ That is why he has not come to the king’s table.”

**30**Saul’s anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, “You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don’t I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you? **31**As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send someone to bring him to me, for he must die!”

**32**“Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” Jonathan asked his father. **33**But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David.

**34**Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the feast he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father’s shameful treatment of David.

**35**In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for his meeting with David. He had a small boy with him, **36**and he said to the boy, “Run and find the arrows I shoot.” As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. **37**When the boy came to the place where Jonathan’s arrow had fallen, Jonathan called out after him, “Isn’t the arrow beyond you?” **38**Then he shouted, “Hurry! Go quickly! Don’t stop!” The boy picked up the arrow and returned to his master. **39**(The boy knew nothing about all this; only Jonathan and David knew.) **40**Then Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy and said, “Go, carry them back to town.”

**41**After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most.

**42**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.’” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

**1 Samuel 23:14-18**

**14**David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands. **15**While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+23&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7826a)] Saul had come out to take his life. **16**And Saul’s son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. **17**“Don’t be afraid,” he said. “My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this.” **18**The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

1. Describe Saul’s character flaws. Give specific examples of how these character flaws affected his relationship with David.

2. Why did Saul promote David in the army, since he was so jealous of him, and why did he want David to marry his daughter, Michal?

3. Can you relate to Saul in any way? Do you see any of his character flaws in yourself? If so, do you want prayer about this? (Please remember that anything of a personal nature that’s shared in your small group is confidential. No gossip please!)

4. What is unusual about David and Jonathan’s friendship? What impresses you most about their friendship and love for each other?

5. How does Jonathan’s experience with his father demonstrate some of the costs of true friendship?

6. Do you have a true friend like Jonathan in your life? Have you ever experienced Jesus being that friend who sticks closer than a brother?

7. In bullet form, list some factors that enhance trust and intimacy in a friendship, from your experience. Then list some factors that inhibit trust and intimacy in a friendship.

**14**But show me unfailing kindness like the Lord’s kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, **15**and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth.”

**16**So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord call David’s enemies to account.” **17**And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

**18**Then Jonathan said to David, “Tomorrow is the New Moon feast. You will be missed, because your seat will be empty.

8. Read 1 Samuel 23:14-18. How did Jonathan help David? What did this require of Jonathan?

9. Is there someone in your life who needs spiritual encouragement right now, to whom you could be a Jonathan?

10. Do you see any ways in which David’s words or deeds demonstrated that he was a man after God’s own heart in these chapters?

11. Journal one of these passages SOAP style.