

Join us in being on mission with God!

**OUR VISION**

To continually mature and grow as a united body of Jesus-imitators who live out God's greatest commandment to "Love" by exalting God and serving one another, and His greatest commission to "Go" by reaching into and shaping our local, regional, and global communities.

## "Door to Christ-like Character"

*1 Samuel 20:18-42*

### Getting Started

*After an introductory time, discuss the following questions in your group or class.*

- Q: Do people truly care about one another in our society or is it all just talk? Are people so self-absorbed that they have trouble investing in the life of others? In your mind, what constitutes a friend? Has this definition changed as you have aged? Is a friend something different to you today than it was when you were in high school or elementary school? How is it different?

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### Thinking about Friendship

1. How does David's friendship with Jonathan help him not repeat the character flaws of his father Saul?

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2. How do we stop repeating some of the problems we see in our family of origin?

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3. What do you believe caused Jonathan the greatest degree of grief as he watched his father?

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4. Saul tried to influence Jonathan by shame, guilt, and greed (read verses 30-31). Which of these have others tried to use in your life recently? Which of the three is hardest for you to resist? Why?

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5. Why do you think Saul failed to grasp the implications of 1 Samuel 14:23 as the reason his dynasty would end? Why did he blame David instead?

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6. How do we know when God is behind events and choices that people make that shape our lives?

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7. What are some realities God puts into our lives that we find it difficult to accept, where we blame others instead?

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8. Why do you believe David bowed down 3 times before Jonathan? What was he saying with this action?

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9. In 1 Samuel 20:22, Jonathan realizes that it is the Lord who is sending David away from him if Saul's jealousy separates the two of them. Describe a situation where God ordered circumstances to distance you from a dear friend. How did you process that change? What makes it hard?

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Christ-like Character

10. Why do you suppose Jonathan planned to shoot the arrows to tell David the result of his discussion with Saul instead of just telling David (they ended up speaking anyway)?

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11. What are some character qualities you can glean from this passage in regards to friendship?

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12. Is there a time in your life when you have betrayed a friend because of outside pressure or because it was easier than doing what was right? If you are willing, please share it with your group.

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16. Share about a time when you have defended a friend when it might have been easier to have not defended them—or at a minimum, kept quiet.

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17. Share about a time when you have shown courage in your relationship with Christ. This could be in your relationship with Christ or in a way you have defended Christ.

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18. Share about a time when you have “done what’s right” in your relationship with Christ.

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Reaching Up and Reaching Out

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19. What is the lasting legacy for Jonathan in his relationship with David? See 1 Samuel 20:42 and 2 Samuel 9.

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20. Have you had anyone in your life that is like a Jonathan or a David? Share about him or her.

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21. As we wrap up this series on friendship, how would you define a friend? What are some of the benefits of investing in the life of others? Does this come easy for you or is it difficult? Why?

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