

EXTRAORDINARY FRIENDSHIP IN ADVERSITY

1 Samuel 18-20

COLTON WILLEY

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This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Who was your best friend when you were growing up? What are some of your favorite memories together? Why do you think adults have a hard time having close friendships today?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Colton reminded us of the necessity of godly friendships like the one between David and Jonathan.**

Why Is Godly Friendship Necessary?

1. Godly friendship provides substance in a superficial world (1 Samuel 18:1-5)

- Compare Jonathan's words in 1 Samuel 14:6 and David's words in 1 Samuel 17:26. What do you notice? Do you have anyone in your life who reminds you of a younger you? In what ways?
- Jonathan's bond with David was forged by their faith in God. What is the bond that connects you and most of your friends? Are your friendships built on surface bonds or substantial bonds?
- If you are a Christ-follower, who are some people you would consider friends that you wouldn't know if you weren't a Christian? How did those friendships form initially? What is the bond that keeps you friends today?

2. Godly friendship provides space for open hearts and shared burdens (1 Samuel 19:1-4a, 6)

- In verse 2, Jonathan took a serious risk and openly shared his father's plan to kill David. Do you have Christian friends with whom you share openly and honestly about burdens you carry?
- As a Community Group, how can you help create an environment where you and others can share joys and burdens authentically?
- Read 1 Samuel 20:13-16, 30-33. Saul continues to pursue David, but Jonathan tries to protect him. When was the last time a friend "had your back" and came to your rescue? How does this remind you of what Jesus has done for you? Can you point to Scripture that speaks to this?

3. Godly friendship provides an example of Christ's sacrificial love (1 Samuel 23:15-18)

- Can you remember a time when someone was given an honor (a promotion, a thanks, a gift, a raise, etc.) that you felt was rightfully yours? How hard was it to rejoice with that person?
- As the son of Saul, Jonathan was in line to be the next King of Israel. Put yourself in his shoes. How do you think Jonathan felt, knowing that David would be king instead of him?
- Be honest, are you happy with the kind of friendships you have right now? Why or why not? Is there anything you can do this week to be a friend to someone like Jonathan was to David?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Read John 15:13-4 as a group, then respond in prayer together.

