
Extraordinarily ORDINARY

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

2 OCTOBER

FAITHFUL

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

MAIN TEXT: 2 Samuel 1:17-27

David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, and he ordered that the people of Judah be taught this lament of the bow (it is written in the Book of Jashar):

“A gazelle lies slain on your heights, Israel.
How the mighty have fallen!

“Tell it not in Gath,
proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon,
lest the daughters of the Philistines be glad,
lest the daughters of the uncircumcised
rejoice.

“Mountains of Gilboa,
may you have neither dew nor rain,
may no showers fall on your terraced fields.

For there the shield of the mighty was
despised,
the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with
oil.

“From the blood of the slain,
from the flesh of the mighty,
the bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied.

Saul and Jonathan—
in life they were loved and admired,
and in death they were not parted.

They were swifter than eagles,
they were stronger than lions.

“Daughters of Israel,
weep for Saul,
who clothed you in scarlet and finery,
who adorned your garments with ornaments
of gold.

“How the mighty have fallen in battle!
Jonathan lies slain on your heights.
I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother;
you were very dear to me.

Your love for me was wonderful,
more wonderful than that of women.

“How the mighty have fallen!
The weapons of war have perished!”

GETTING STARTED

Discuss: What are the ingredients of a great and godly friendship? Have you ever had a friendship like David and Jonathan’s, or witnessed one in action?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read 1 Sam 18:1-4: What does this passage tell us about David and Jonathan’s friendship? How did they show their love for one another?

2. Read 1 Sam 20: Why did David go looking for Jonathan? How did Jonathan help David? (12-23)

3. How was Jonathan and David’s friendship put to the test (27-35)? What obstacles do we face that put our friendships to the test?

3. Read 1 Sam 23:16-18. This is Jonathan and David’s final meeting. In what ways does Jonathan encourage David?

4. Jonathan and David made three separate covenants (18:3, 20:17 and 23:18). What is a covenant? Read Matthew 26:26-30 and Hebrews 8:7-13. How is the “new covenant” established by Jesus better than the ones entered into by David and Jonathan? How does this affect our relationship with God and one another?

5. What does David and Jonathan’s friendship show us about the need to rid ourselves of jealousy and pride, in the area of friendship? *Hint:* Jonathan would have become a great king, but David was chosen instead. Nonetheless Jonathan became ‘one in spirit’ with David and ‘loved him as himself.’ He did everything he could to support David, giving up his own claim to the throne, choosing to align his priorities to God’s priorities. His friendship was an act of worship!

6. How could God use a friendship that is truly given over to him? *Hint:* You could be used to become a ‘Jonathan’ to a ‘David’. You could impact someone’s life in an extraordinarily ordinary way.

COMING UP

J John | 9th Oct (11am)
Disciple Course | 9th Oct-27th Nov (2.30pm)
Alpha | 10th Oct (7pm)
Baptisms | 23rd Oct
William Wade | 13th Nov
Belonging Course | 20th & 27th Nov

NEXT STEPS

What steps can we take to ensure our friendships endure and thrive despite the obstacles we face?

How could we use faithful friendships as a missional opportunity?

Are there any changes we can make to our Life Groups in order to help LG members become better friends?

PRAYER

- Thank God for his model of friendship, perfectly shown through Jesus Christ, *Friend of Sinners* (Matthew 11:19).
 - Praise God for placing us within a loving church community. Ask God to make us an incredibly friendly and hospitable church in every ministry we run.
 - Ask God to give you the grace you need to befriend and support someone: and the wisdom to know who God is calling you to do this for.
 - Pray for 250+ in attendance at the morning service, 20 conversions and 10 baptisms by the end of the year.
 - Pray for events coming up.
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