



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 27, 2018

This Week's Focus: Jesus' atoning sacrifice on the cross and his triumphal victory over the grave has reconciled us to God and one another so that we are no longer enemies but friends.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 18

Jesus answered, "The most important is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." **Mark 12:29-31**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- What was the common passion that David and Jonathan shared that "knit" their hearts together (1 Samuel 14:6; 17:46-47)? Discuss how the gospel (the person and work of Jesus Christ) unites us in friendship with God and with one another. What unifying passion do we now share as God's people (1 Corinthians 10:31)?
- Why did Jonathan recognize about David (1 Samuel 18:14)? Why did he give David his robe, armor, belt, bow, and sword?
- How does the world define friendship? What is the difference between true friendships and relationships built solely on shared interests/hobbies?
- Discuss the importance of loyalty in friendship (Proverbs 17:17). Share an example when a friend's loyalty helped you through a difficult time in your life.
- What is transparency, and why is it an important element of friendship? Talk about the following levels of transparency. Which is most difficult for you?
 - Friends are open about their *feelings*.
 - Friends are open with their *common life*.
 - Friends are open with their *decisions*.
 - Friends are open about their *flaws*.
- Do you have a friend with whom you can be mutually loyal and transparent? How should we be wise when choosing friends with whom we can be loyal and transparent.

- Why was Saul jealous of David? Where did his jealousy inevitably lead him? Do you need to repent of a particular sin in your life before it consumes you?
- What strategies did Saul use to destroy David? Ultimately, who had Saul set himself against?
- What is David's success and celebrity meant to point us to? What does Jonathan's selfless, sacrificial love and friendship foreshadow? Philippians 2:1-11.
- How does this passage encourage you to demonstrate and declare the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?