



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “Friends With Friends”

**Ps James Lowe – Feb. 16, 2014**

#### **WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)**

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What did you like to do with your friends when you were a child?
- What is an enjoyable or troubling experience you had as a direct result of a good friend?
- If you could be a friend with anyone in history, who is one person you'd like to pick?

#### **WORD (10-15 minutes)**

Sermons can be heard online at [bethelbrentwood.org/media](http://bethelbrentwood.org/media).

##### REVIEW:

God is the greatest of all friends, for he laid down his very life for us in Jesus Christ. Already in the Garden of Eden he sought relationship with the humans he created. But even though Adam had friendship with God, God said it was not good for him to be alone and so blessed him with a human relationship in the person of his wife. Beyond friendship with God and a spouse, we also need other friends. God himself is a triune being, modeling for us our very need for friendships.

##### FRIENDSHIP LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF DAVID:

*As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.* (1 Samuel 18:1 ESV)

When we are truly friends with God, he will fashion us to become the kind of person that others would want to befriend. David was such a man. Before Jonathan became David's covenant friend, David was already known for his godly character. The following text records an event that occurred before they became friends.

*One of the young men answered, “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him.”* (1 Samuel 16:18 ESV)

Jonathan was drawn to David, so much so that he gave David the very symbols of privilege and power with which he could have destroyed David. David was indeed a threat to Jonathan, for many desired David to be king instead of Jonathan's father, Saul. But Jonathan didn't view David this way. Instead, he valued him and loved him as a friend because of his godly character and valor.

*Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.* (1 Samuel 18:3, 4 ESV)

#### KEY POINTS:

1. A friend will cherish you.

David's wife, the daughter of King Saul, loved David (1 Sam 18:20) so much that she helped David escape from Saul's plot to kill him (1 Sam 19:11-17). Saul was jealous of David, and threatened by his popularity and the rumors and prophecies that spoke of David becoming king in Saul's place. David's wife loved David so much that she was willing to risk the wrath of her father, the ruler of the nation. She truly cherished David and demonstrated it with her actions.

2. A friend will challenge others on your behalf.

Jonathan challenged his own father, King Saul, about his violent animosity against David (1 Sam 19:1-5). Jonathan risked his own life in doing so, as evidenced when King Saul threw a spear at him in a burst of rage as he accused his son of siding with David, his perceived enemy (1 Sam 20:30-33). Jonathan was unwilling to let his own powerful father's injustice be carried out against his good friend.

3. A friend will choose you (even above themselves).

Jonathan preferred David above himself and chose to make way for him to become king (1 Sam 20). Though Jonathan was the rightful successor to his father's throne, he instead valued and honored David above himself. Jonathan was willing to forego what he naturally would have inherited, in order that it might instead go to his virtuous friend. Indeed, as things played out, David eventually became king.

#### **PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

- What, if anything, hinders you from being a quality, godly friend to others?
- What has helped you to be a better godly friend to others?
- Who models quality godly friendships, and how can you better emulate them?
- Where else can you learn about friendship in the Scriptures?

#### **PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- That God would teach us through his Word and through others about deep godly friendships.
- That God would help us make quality decisions to become deep, godly friends with specific people.
- That God would help us heal any broken friendships that can be redeemed without violating God's ways or values.