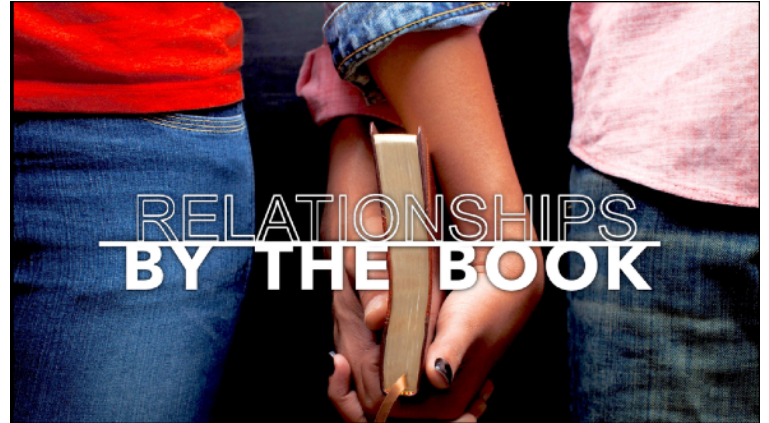


Making Friends

1 Samuel 18:1-5

It seems everyone wants a friend, but **few people actually have** real “*friends*.” We are becoming an increasingly private society and it seems that fewer people than ever actually have life-long intimate friends any more.



Of the 4,000 people from 80 different ethnic groups surveyed, one third of them found it hard to make friends.

The Vancouver Foundation, June 2012

In fact, Vancouver is becoming known as "***the lonely city***." The Vancouver Foundation conducted a study in June 2012...

We can change that. As a gospel community on a mission to love, each one of us can do our part to ***make friends*** with the people God places in our lives.

A friend

*is a person on the same side in a struggle;
one who is not an enemy or foe; an ally.*

Webster's Dictionary

Webster's dictionary defines a friend as: ***“a person on the same side in a struggle; one who is not an enemy or foe; an ally.”***

The winning definition read:

“A friend walks in when others walk out on you”.

Turn with me in your Bibles to 1 Samuel 18:1-5

1 Samuel 18:1-5 Common English Bible (CEB)

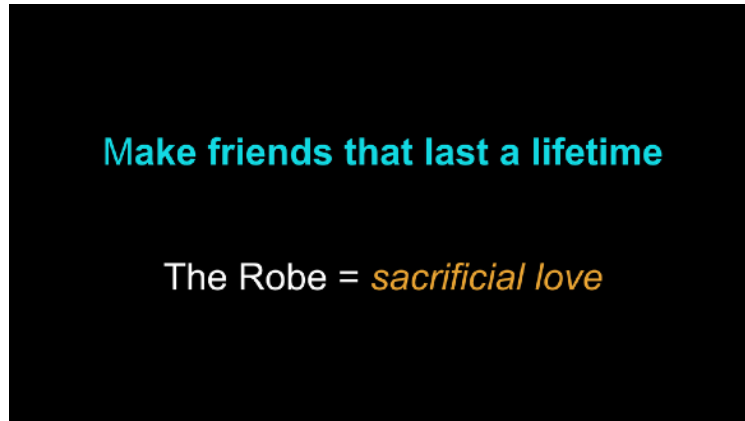
Jonathan and David

18 As soon as David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan’s life[a] became bound up with David’s life, and Jonathan loved David as much as himself.[b] 2 From that point forward, Saul kept David in his service[c] and wouldn’t allow him to return to his father’s household. 3 And Jonathan and David made a covenant together because Jonathan loved David as much as himself. 4 Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his armor, as well as his sword, his bow, and his belt. 5 David went out and was successful in every mission Saul sent him to do. So Saul placed him in charge of the soldiers, and this pleased all the troops as well as Saul’s servants.

One of the priceless relationships David enjoyed was his friendship with King Saul’s son, Jonathan. The very name “**Jonathan**” means “**Jehovah has given.**”

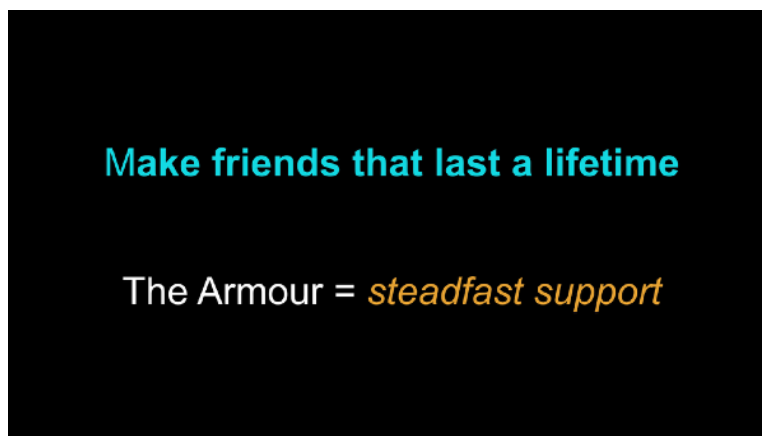
**Jonathan =
Jehovah has given**

Each one of these items are symbolic of the actions we can take to make friends that will last a lifetime.



1. **The Robe.** The robe represents **sacrificial love**.

Ultimately it's what Jesus showed when he laid down his life for us reminding us of his word's in **John 15:13** that "*No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for a friend.*"



2. **The Armour.** The armour represents **steadfast support**.

A true friend is a *steadfast support* before others. True friends stick up for each other and defend each other when others attack.

Watch this video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDU4kd430rA>

A true friend is a *steadfast support* before others.

Make friends that last a lifetime

The Sword = *dependable words*

3. **The Sword.** The sword represents **dependable words**.

You can depend on the words of a true friend. Deuteronomy 23:23 says, "*You shall be careful to perform what goes out from your lips...*" Once Jonathan gave David his word, David knew he could depend on it.

Make friends that last a lifetime

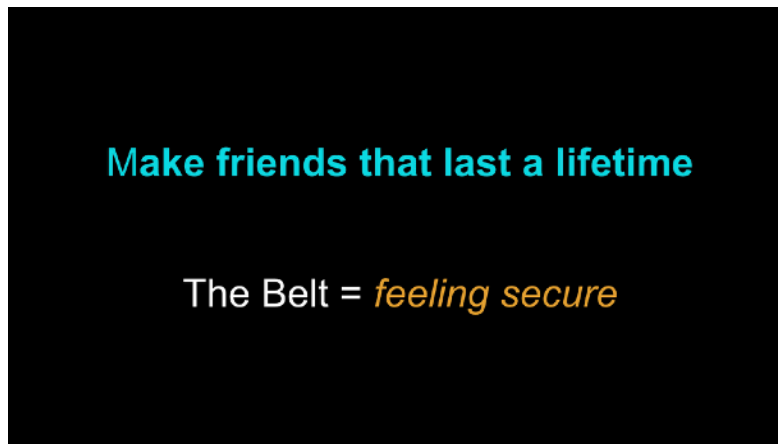
The Bow = *reliable strength*

4. **The Bow.** The bow represents **reliable strength**.

When you're life feels like its being pulled apart, your friend does not suddenly fall apart.

True friends let each other hurt. Proverbs 17:17 says that “A friend loves at all times.”

That's the kind of *reliable strength* you need to make friends that last a lifetime.



5. **The Belt.** The belt represents **Feeling Secure.**

The belt is used to hold things together. A true friend will **let you speak openly and honestly** and you *feel secure* to do so, because you know they won't run and tell others what you said.

Jesus showed us what true friendship is all about, by laying down his life in *sacrificial love*. He shows us his *steadfast support*, speaks only *dependable words*, provides us with *reliable strength*, and makes us feel secure as his friend.

John 15:15 MSG

Jesus said, “*This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I’m no longer calling you servants because servants don’t understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I’ve named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from the Father. “You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you”*”