

DAVID

WAITING ON A KING

FRIENDS

Day 1 — READ Genesis 2:15-23

In January we went through the first few books of Genesis. Our speaker talked about how we are created in community with God and with creation. This week we take a look at the statement: I need more than God. At face value that seems like a shocking thing for a Christian to say. Although we definitely need God and He should be first and foremost in our lives, what does today's scripture teach us about needing others? JOURNAL your thoughts.

Day 2 — READ 1 Samuel 18:1-4

Have you ever had a friend that you just had an immediate connection with, a friend who you barely knew but it seemed as if you'd known each other forever already? Have you ever had a really close friend? Have you ever lacked that sort of friendship and felt the vastness of the hole in your life? EXPLAIN how friendship plays a force in your own life. LIST some of the ways that friends have blessed you. DESCRIBE some ways that you've struggled with your friendships.

Day 3 — READ 1 Samuel 19:1-7

REFLECT on a time that your friendship with someone has been tested.

- What were the circumstances?
- Did you give up on that friendship?
- Did you work through it?
- Have you had to protect a friend at a cost to you, or have you been protected by a friend?
- What does that mean to you?
- If you're already gone through the in-between ages of 15-30 years old, what did you learn about friendship during this time?
- What can you teach someone this week about your own journey?

— READ 1 Samuel 20:15-17

- Have you ever had the honor of dedicating yourself to someone's family through thick and thin?
- What is that like for you?
- Have you ever wanted that sort of relationship and haven't found it yet?
- What would it look like to take a risk to find a friend like that?
- What sorts of steps do you think it would take to achieve that sort of deep and abiding friendship?
- What happens if you get hurt in the process?
- What happens if you succeed?

Day 4 — READ 2 Samuel 1:25-26

Let's CELEBRATE friendship today for all that it can be and, in the process, WORSHIP God for the way He created us to be in community. THANK God today for the friends you've had in your life who are ...

Faithful	Sacrificial
Present in their attention	Givers
Takers	Encouragers
Shields	Prayer warriors
Non-judgmental	Listeners
Loving	Devoted

PRAY for God to bring people into your life who embody these characteristics, and PRAY for God to help you become this sort of friend.

Day 5 — READ 1 Samuel 20:41-42; 2 Samuel 9:1

Even Jesus needed friends. Paul listed many Next Steps at the end of his weekend message, but he emphasized, "DON'T GIVE UP!"

Is there anyone you've cut yourself off from? When we cut ourselves off from people, we cut off pieces of ourselves from God. CONFESS your pain and disappointment to God. OPEN your hand and your heart to God. He cannot give you a gift if your hand is closed.

PRAY for a friend.

CALL or CONNECT with a friend you have on your heart.

JOIN a group.

TAKE a risk.

BE PRESENT with your friends.

BE the sort of friend you would like to have.

TAKE a step.