



MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

“The Chosen Leader”

Lesson 2: What it Means to be a Friend

Scripture: I Samuel 18-19

LESSON OBJECTIVE: To analyze what true friendship is; are we true friends and do we have true friendships in our lives?

LESSON GOAL: To make adjustments in the way we relate to people in order that we may be a better friend

Scripture References on Friendship

Let's begin by asking who are the people you call friends? People use the term friend all the time in referencing someone, but is every person a friend?

1. **Proverbs 17:17** “A friend loves at all times.” - True friends never stop loving you regardless of the times, or regardless of what is going on in your life at a particular season, they unconditionally love and care about you. Often times you hear people say, “I am done with so and so.” In this case, you might not be a true friend and they may not be a true friend.

NOTE: The basis for friendship is love. This is non-negotiable for friendship.

2. **Proverbs 27:5** - “Faithful are the wounds of a friend.” – No friendship is perfect, no person is perfect, which results in hurt being experienced in true friendship. In friendship some words will be spoken, some actions will be done, some emotions will be bruised, some inconsideration will be experienced, etc., because people are human. Also, true friends “rebuke” each other (28:23). Oftentimes, the truth hurts. True friends will experience wounds. The antidote for wounds in friendship is love.

NOTE: True friendship is based on loyalty.

3. **Proverbs 10:10** – “And a babbling fool will be ruined.” A person who talks to much can ruin a good friendship. Friends should be able to sit and talk in peace. Loose lipped friends who talk but do not stand behind their words, create mistrust and discord within a friendship. True friends should speak peace and speak righteous words into the life of their friend (10:11).
4. **Proverbs 25:9** - “Do not reveal the secret of another.” – True friendship requires discretion and confidence. A true friend keeps the secrets of their friend. Some people whom people call friends are really gossipers. “He who goes about as a

talebearer reveals secrets." (11:13). A gossip is someone who will betray you by revealing your secrets. Gossip has the strong capability of ruining a friendship.

NOTE: True friends control their tongue.

5. **Proverbs 27:17** - "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." A friend should be someone who makes you better and you also make them better. In other words, friends should promote growth in you. Friends should force you to stretch yourself to explore deeper your strengths and dreams.

NOTE: True friends should be encouraging.

Jesus' Version of Friendship

READ John 15:13 What would you say about friendship based on Jesus' words: "one would lay down one's life for one's friends."

1. How do you define friend?

2. How does Jesus define friend?'

Reflect on one of the greatest sacrifices a friend has made for you?

LESSON FOCUS: I Samuel 18:1-5 and I Samuel 19:1-7

In this chapter, Jonathan presents himself to David with no reservations. He presents his life to David as someone who will be there for David. The reason this extension of friendship is so significant is because it propels David towards his destiny. In life we must prioritize our friendships as we think through God's will for our lives. Let's be true with ourselves, everyone that you call friend will not align with God's plan for your life. Therefore, you have to consider where you will spend your energy and time as you pursue God's plan.

In life, your advancement, peace, and happiness will come through the pursuit of your destiny. Life's contentment for you will be the fact that you are doing what God called you to do. As much as you would want certain people to be on that journey, they may not make the priority list of friends.

The way you prioritize your friends is by looking at Jonathan and David. Prioritize your friends by people who:

Read I Samuel 18: 1-5

I. Show You Love - vs. 1 - People that pour into your life have a genuine interest in you. People that see good in your life and see the call of God on your life will be people who will help you do what has been placed on your heart to accomplish for God. Jonathan was able to motivate David, by giving his life to help David's life. Let it be known, that Jonathan had life to give. Meaning, he had a concept of life, he had a vision for the Kingdom, and he had personal integrity. When you have these factors you are able to show someone love without any selfishness.

II. Help You With Life's Necessities - vs. 2 - God knows what you need for your destiny. He knows the resources that will help you achieve what's in your heart. You are not responsible to have all that you need, that's why you have friends who also have resources, thoughts, and energy to help you.

Read examples of people who helped friends:

- a. **Luke 8:3** – The women helped Jesus finance his ministry out of **their pockets**.
- b. **Acts 9:26-29** - Paul needed Barnabas to introduce him to the other apostles.
- c. **Acts 18:24-28** – Priscilla and Aquila helped Apollos in his ministry.

III. Provide Protection - I Sam. 19:1-7

In pursuit of your destiny there will be people whom you will encounter who will not support what you are doing. But there are Jonathans who will be there to speak up for you and validate who you are. These are the people whom God will send your way to take care of you. These people are important because they will help you navigate through the water towards your destiny.

EXERCISE: Answer the following questions

1. What is your destiny at this present moment in your life? Saying, "I do not know," is not an answer.

2. What resources do you need to accomplish destiny?

3. What is your next step in the destiny journey?
