



1 SAMUEL 20:1-42

GETTING STARTED...

"Who is your best friend?" is a question that gets asked to a child, but almost never to an adult. As adults we begin to see friends more as luxuries rather than necessities. Everyone would like more time with friends, but life is full of work, family, and various commitments and so friendship declines. While that is true, it is not always good. Statistics show that connections and friendship have been declining for the last 30 years, while at the same time loneliness has increased. We need friends more than we realize, and the story of David and Jonathan is a perfect example of what kind of friends we need. Jonathan is willing to put his life on the line to protect David, even sacrifice his entire kingdom for the sake of God's will in his life. While we need friends like that, we also need to be the kind of friend that demonstrates love, sacrifice and a commitment to the will of God.

LENT GUIDE

This week marks the beginning of Lent and the first week of our Lent fasts. This week we are fasting from Food.

The primary way that God instructs us to fast is through food. Because food is a basic necessity of life, by abstaining we remind ourselves that God is even more necessary. Every time we experience hunger throughout the day, our physical hunger reminds us that our greatest hunger is to be for God. Allow that reminder to be a reminder to spend time in prayer. It can be helpful to choose a very specific request that you want to bring before God and devote yourself to pray for that every time you feel hungry. Suggestions might be for an unbeliever you want to see come to Christ, a sin issue that has been plaguing you, or a part of your spiritual life you have needed more time on.

You can choose to fast everyday from one meal, or choose one day to fast from all meals. Going from dinner to dinner is often an easy way to fast and it causes the least disruption for others in your life.

Helpful Readings: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, Matthew 6:16-18, John 6:51

READ THE TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 20:1-42

20 Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my guilt? And what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?" **2** And he said to him, "Far from it! You shall not die. Behold, my father does nothing either great or small without disclosing it to me. And why should my father hide this from me? It is not so." **3** But David vowed again, saying, "Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he thinks, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death." **4** Then Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you say, I will do for you." **5** David said to Jonathan, "Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit at table with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field till the third day at evening. **6** If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the clan.' **7** If he says, 'Good!' it will be well with your servant, but if he is angry, then know that harm is determined by him. **8** Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the Lord with you. But if there is guilt in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?" **9** And Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! If I knew that it was determined by my father that harm should come to you, would I not tell you?" **10** Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me if your father answers you roughly?" **11** And Jonathan said to David, "Come, let us go out into the field." So they both went out into the field.

12 And Jonathan said to David, "The Lord, the God of Israel, be witness! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you? **13** But should it please my father to do you harm, the Lord do so to Jonathan and more also if I do not disclose it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. May the Lord be with you, as he has been with my father. **14** If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the Lord, that I may not die; **15** and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." **16** And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the Lord take vengeance on David's enemies." **17** And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

18 Then Jonathan said to him, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty. **19** On the third day go down quickly to the place where you hid yourself when the matter was in hand, and remain beside the stone heap. **20** And I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I shot at a mark. **21** And behold, I will send the boy, saying, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I say to the boy, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you, take them,' then you are to come, for, as the Lord lives, it is safe for you and there is no danger. **22** But if I say to the youth, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you,' then go, for the Lord has sent you away. **23** And

as for the matter of which you and I have spoken, behold, the Lord is between you and me forever.”

²⁴ So David hid himself in the field. And when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat food. ²⁵ The king sat on his seat, as at other times, on the seat by the wall. Jonathan sat opposite, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty.

²⁶ Yet Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, “Something has happened to him. He is not clean; surely he is not clean.” ²⁷ But on the second day, the day after the new moon, David's place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, “Why has not the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?” ²⁸ Jonathan answered Saul, “David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem. ²⁹ He said, ‘Let me go, for our clan holds a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. So now, if I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away and see my brothers.’ For this reason he has not come to the king's table.”

³⁰ Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, “You son of a perverse, rebellious woman, do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? ³¹ For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die.” ³² Then Jonathan answered Saul his father, “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” ³³ But Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him. So Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to death. ³⁴ And Jonathan rose from the table in fierce anger and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had disgraced him.

³⁵ In the morning Jonathan went out into the field to the appointment with David, and with him a little boy. ³⁶ And he said to his boy, “Run and find the arrows that I shoot.” As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. ³⁷ And when the boy came to the place of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the boy and said, “Is not the arrow beyond you?” ³⁸ And Jonathan called after the boy, “Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!” So Jonathan's boy gathered up the arrows and came to his master. ³⁹ But the boy knew nothing. Only Jonathan and David knew the matter. ⁴⁰ And Jonathan gave his weapons to his boy and said to him, “Go and carry them to the city.” ⁴¹ And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most. ⁴² Then Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.’ ” And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What promises does David give to Jonathan? What promises does Jonathan give to David?
2. From this passage, why is Jonathan willing to side with David over his father?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. As adults it can be hard to simply have friends, how can we make time for friendship in our lives? Is it worth it to have friendships?
6. How have friends helped you follow God in the past? Who can you be encouraging in your life?
7. What would be an example of a sacrifice you might have to realistically make so that the gospel is known? How easy or difficult would that be? How would you know when it is time?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*