



1 Samuel

Following The Shepherd King In An Age Of Personal Freedom

Life Group Discussion / Week Ten

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

What our study highlights for us today is that if we desire to follow God in an age that worships personal freedom, we cannot do it alone. It is not enough to have sharp doctrine, or courageous faith, or determination of the will. What we need is true friendship.

READ

1 Samuel 17:55 - 18:9

STUDY & APPLY

1. We all desire to have close friendships where we are free to open up our hearts to others without fear. The bible actually tells us we are created for this kind of friendship as image-bearers of God who himself enjoys community within the trinity. Yet, this kind of friendship is hard to come by. The Bible encourages close, trusting, and honest friendship with others. **How does this passage point out David's difficulty in having true friendship?**
2. Certain dominant values in our culture today make it incredibly difficult to make and maintain true friendships. We should not be surprised to see a culture that champions love of self and a follow-your-heart mentality to also struggle deeply with friendship and not know how to stick with others through the hard times in life. **Can you think of some other cultural values today that make cultivating true friendship difficult?**
3. Jonathan demonstrates the true quality of friendship in verses 18:1-3. **In your own words, how would you describe the quality of their friendship?**

Read this quote from the sermon:

Friendship is unique in the sense that it is the only kind of relationship that is completely voluntary. For this reason, friendships are the first to suffer when life gets busy. Somehow, even when life gets busy we find a way to get to work on time, pay our bills, obey the law, and get home to take care of our obligations. But, friendships are not about fulfilling obligations but about being wanted by another person and wanting another person—not because of usefulness of that person, but merely because they are cherished. Friendship is never forced on anyone, it is completely optional. True friendship is deliberate. This is where the beauty of friendship is. It is about knowing and being known. We all want someone to look at us and say 'it doesn't matter what you bring to the table, I love you and I'm not going anywhere.'

4. **Reflecting on the quote above, how can you cultivate this kind of friendship in your life?**

5. The real significance of the friendship between Jonathan and David is found in vs. 4 when Jonathan strips himself of all his visible symbols of honor, glory, identity, and reputation and gives it to David. What he is saying is 'everything that was of benefit to me, I give up my right to it and give it to you for the sake of friendship.' As our culture becomes more and more aimed at building our own individual reputations and greatness, this act seems even more astounding. Saul thinks of what he might lose to David but Jonathan gives up all that he has. This passage is meant to draw our focus to a friendship much greater than David—to the one who stripped himself of all heavenly glory and reputation for you. **Reflect and discuss on how Jesus is the better Jonathan and how does this passage point us to the kind of friendship we have with Christ?**

PRAY

Close your discussion praying earnestly, empathetically, and boldly for one another.