

Biblical Friendship

1 Samuel 18-20

Intro:

[Dunbars Number]

Capacity of 150. Inner 5=1/2 time. Inner 15=1/4 time.

- By nature we are selfish... and selfishness ruins friendships
- It is only through Christ we can be truly selfless

Friends are Honest [1 Sam 19.2]

They Tell the Truth (even if it hurts)

- Jonathan's dad wanted to kill his BFF—He told him the news
- Sometimes we are dishonest by withholding important information

They Shoot Strait

- Jonathan didn't dance around this fact. He told him like it was.
 - Short-term awkwardness or Long-term consequences [Difference between Guys & Girls]

They Don't Hide Burdens

- We have the tendency to keep burdens to ourselves. Friends are the ones that are there to help us through these difficult times
- *"It's ok to not be ok, its just not ok to stay that way."*

Friends are Loyal [1 Sam 19.4-6]

They Have Your Back (when you are not there)

- Jonathan convinces Saul (his dad) not to kill David.
- *"Loyalty is ACTIVE not passive!"*

They Advocate on Your Behalf

- Friends know your strengths and weaknesses → Shares them accordingly
- *"Good friends allow you to be humble, because they let people know what you can do."*

They Will Be There in the Good and the Bad

- More than birthday parties... they are there when the bottom drops out
- [Relationship Pyramid]

Friends are Faithful [1 Sam 20.41]

They Fight for You

- Jonathan is in David's corner... even if it means losing the crown [20.31]
- Friends that are faithful are willing to sacrifice themselves.

They Fight with You

- You don't go into a battle alone [physically. spiritually. emotionally]
- Having someone with you provides you energy to continue the fight

They are REAL

- Jonathan knew they had to part ways. Real friends understand circumstances
- Real friends weep together [sometimes that's all you can do]

Application:

1. Identify your shortcomings as a friend [Honest. Loyal. Faithful]
2. Who is in your 5 (15)

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1. How can you (through Christ) be a better friend?
 2. Who should be in your 5 (15)? Who should not be?
 - What are you going to do about that?

Discussion Questions:

Robin Dunbar defines a friend as, "Someone you would go up and have a conversation with if you see them in the airport." How would you define a friend?

- What are key components of a friendship that you look for?

We were challenged to think about our inner 5 layer of friends and our secondary layer of 15 friends. Who would you consider to be in your 2 layers?

- Who should be in one of these that is not currently? Who should not be?

3 components of a biblical friendship are: Honesty, Loyalty, and Faithfulness. Which aspect do you struggle with the most?

- Take a look back at the text and see how Jonathan was honest, loyal, and faithful. What can you draw from that to use in your own life?

We are naturally selfish and it is only through Christ that we can truly be selfless. How have you seen a selfish act ruin a friendship?

- What are some ways that recklessly pursuing Jesus help you be a better friend?

