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# The Art of True Friendship

## Sermon Discussion Questions - May 22, 2022

### Text

1 Samuel 18-23, 2 Samuel 1

### Discussion Questions

1. In 1 Samuel 18:1-9, we see Jonathan freely give his best gifts to David and seemingly expects nothing in return. By contrast, Saul sought to gain splendor and glory through David's conquests. For all of us, it can be tempting to base our relationships by what we can gain (like Saul) rather than what we can give (like Jonathan). Do you resonate with this? In which of your relationships can you start to act more like Jonathan and less like Saul?
2. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-9. When our friends, coworkers and spouses have moments of rejoicing, do we find ourselves celebrating with them or do we compare our circumstances with theirs and become jealous and discontent like Saul was? What does it look like to rejoice in this season with the people in your group who are rejoicing?
3. Read 1 Samuel 19: 4-6 and 9-15. What do you notice about Saul's behavior in these sections? Saul, like most of us, loves to be loved and so ends up behaving one way with one group and another way with another. Are you ever tempted to do this? Why do you think this is?
4. 1 Samuel 23:16 says "Jonathan strengthened David's hand in God." What opportunities do you have to strengthen the faith of your friends this week?
5. Augustine once said, *"In this world two things are essential: life and friendship. Both should be highly prized and we must not undervalue them. Life and friendship are nature's gifts. God created us that we might exist and live: this is life. But if we are not to remain solitary, there must be friendship...There is no better proof of friendship than to help our friend with their burdens."* How can your community help carry each other's burdens as Jesus carried yours?

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, Thank you for the gift of friendship. Thank you for the perfect friendship of Jesus who loved us to the point of death. We ask that Your Spirit help us to be friends who are giving-oriented, rejoicing, quick to listen and faith-strengthening. Help us to carry each other's burdens as Jesus carried ours. Amen.