

Sermon Discussion Guide

September 10, 2022

READ

Read 1 Samuel 20 aloud and consider making some observations about the passage.

Sermon Recap: *Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:*

- Three things characterize biblical friendship—selfless love, intentionality, and a commitment to speaking truth.
- Biblical friendships shield us, strengthen us, and shape us.
- Jesus' friendship to us enables us to be godly friends to others.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Think of the best friends you have had. What are some of your favorite characteristics of a true friend?
2. Are you ever jealous of people you call friends? Do you secretly resent when something great is happening to them? What are some ways to overcome these feelings towards others? How can we help each other do this well?
3. When was the last time you had a friend who loved you enough to confront you on some decision you were about to make? How can we get better as a community in speaking the truth to each other in love?
4. What images or relationships come to mind when you think of God? How can we cultivate thinking of God as a friend to us in Christ?

| Weekly Response Questions | Prayer |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Reflect: How does this story point us to Christ?<input type="checkbox"/> Respond: Call or text someone who has been a faithful friend to you, and thank them for their friendship.<input type="checkbox"/> Reach: Do you know anyone who doesn't have a lot of friends? What are ways you can reach out to them? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Ask God to grant us his Spirit to enable us to be a type of friend to others that is loving, intentional, and committed to speaking the truth.<input type="checkbox"/> Pray that God would grant faithful friends to people in our congregation who are lonely or hurting. Ask that God would comfort them by his Spirit, and also provide a person to come alongside them to strengthen and encourage them. |