



## Friends Like These

### What Is a Friend?

Proverbs 17:17; 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:1-4

Humans need a few things to survive—water, food, shelter, clothing. Then there are plenty of things we all want—extra money, extra time, hobbies. But let me ask you a question. Where do you consider friendship? For most of us, friendship is something we wished we had, but either don't have the time or don't have the energy to pursue. So, most of us simply choose to live without friends. Here's the problem. Just like we were made to need water, God made us to need friends. Friendship isn't optional. That means we need to prioritize friendship and cultivate those friendships.

A friend loves, commits, and serves for the good of their friend.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

## Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times,  
and a brother is born for adversity.

## Proverbs 18:1-4

As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. **2** And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. **3** Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. **4** And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

## Proverbs 20:1-4

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."

- Friendship can be a loaded topic. For some, it's positive; for others, it's negative; and for most of us, we have mixed feelings. What comes to mind when you think about friendship in your life?
- How important do you think friendship is? Why do you think this way?
- The first sermon of this series answers the question: what is a friend? How would you define a friend?
- We need people in our lives when life is difficult, but why do we even need friends when life is good?
- In 1 Samuel 18, we're told Jonathan "made a covenant with David." Why don't we make covenants with friends today? How could friendship change if we did?
- What should commitment to a friend look like practically?
- Read 1 Samuel 20:1-4. How does Jonathan sacrificially serve David?

- Jonathan is a great example of a friend, but Jesus is a better example! Read John 15:12-13. What does it look like for us as friends to “lay down our life for our friends?”
- Pastor Dustin offered three application questions in his sermon. As we close, answer these questions:
  - Have you told your friend(s) you love them?
  - Are you one of the first people your friends turn to?
  - Can you name the last time you served your friends?