

David and Jonathan - 1 Samuel 20:1-42

Topics: Accountability, Anger, Answers, Assurance, Caring, Character, Children, Commitment, Confidence, Conversation, Danger, Devotion, Emotions, Escape, Evidence, Excuses, Family, Feelings, Follow-Through, Friendship, Grief, Guidance, Hatred, Hiding, Honor, Instructions, Intentions, Jealousy, Mourning, Murder, Parents, Persecution, Questions, Relationships, Risk, Running, Separation, Shame, Sincerity, Swearing, Trust, Vows, Waiting

Open It

- * 1. In what way do you agree or disagree with the conventional wisdom that “when the going gets tough, you find out who your real friends are”?
- 2. What is particularly tragic about a love story “across enemy lines”?

Explore It

- 3. What was the difference between David’s and Jonathan’s perceptions of Saul’s behavior? (20:1-2)
- 4. What was David’s theory about why Saul might not have included Jonathan in his plans as he usually did? (20:3)
- 5. What situation did David and Jonathan set up to test Saul’s intentions toward David? (20:5-7)
- * 6. What promise did Jonathan make to David before God? (20:12-13)
- * 7. What promise did Jonathan ask David to make to him? (20:14-15)
- 8. What emotion prevailed in the relationship between David and Jonathan? (20:17)
- 9. How did Jonathan plan to signal David to let him know whether or not he was in danger? (20:19-22)
- 10. How did Saul react when David’s place was empty on the first day of the feast? (20:26)
- 11. How did Jonathan answer when Saul questioned him about David’s absence on the second day of the feast? (20:28-29)
- 12. What was Saul’s immediate emotional reaction when he heard the agreed-upon answer as to David’s whereabouts? (20:30)
- 13. What accusation did Saul make against his son Jonathan? (20:30)
- 14. Why did Saul believe it was contrary to Jonathan’s interests to support David? (20:31)
- 15. What did Saul do when Jonathan continued to question the justice of the death sentence against David? (20:33)
- 16. What emotions did Jonathan feel after arguing with his father? (20:34)
- 17. Which signal did Jonathan execute for David the next day? (20:35-38)
- 18. Why did David bow down to Jonathan when they met alone in the field? (20:41)
- * 19. Why did Jonathan and David weep in their last meeting together? (20:41-42)
- 20. What did Jonathan remind David of before they parted company? (20:42)

Get It

- 21. What moral or legal justification did Saul have for trying to kill David?
- 22. How do you think Jonathan felt about being caught between his father and his friend?
- * 23. What does it say about Jonathan that he chose to remain loyal to David, even to the point of working against his own father’s commands?
- 24. What did Jonathan show that he knew by faith about the future when he secured David’s promise to be kind to his descendants?
- 25. Why did David and Jonathan confer in a field with no one else around?
- * 26. What is good or bad about forming loyalties that can surpass loyalty to family?
- 27. If your own self-interest were to conflict with the obvious will of God, which would you choose to promote?

Apply It

- * 28. How can you resolve to strengthen your commitment to God so that it could withstand even the agendas of your closest family or friends?
- 29. For what strong friendship bond can you thank God and your friend this week?