

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Be the Friend You Want November 17, 2024

Summary

In this message, Pastor Kyle addresses the loneliness epidemic in our society and shows how true friendship can combat it. Using the example of Jonathan and David, he explains that real friendship requires sacrificial love, openness and commitment—qualities Jesus models in His relationship with us. Instead of seeking friends who meet these ideals, we should aim to *be* these kinds of friends to others. By dedicating time, being fully present and supporting others genuinely, we reflect Jesus' love and form meaningful connections that can bring joy and healing.

Scripture

After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David. From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home. And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt. 1 Samuel 18:1-4 (NLT)

Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God. "Don't be afraid," Jonathan reassured him. "My father will never find you! You are going to be the king of Israel, and I will be next to you, as my father, Saul, is well aware." So the two of them renewed their solemn pact before the Lord. Then Jonathan returned home, while David stayed at Horesh. 1 Samuel 23:16-18 (NLT)

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other. John 15:9-17 (NIV)

Let's Start

What's one small thing a friend has done for you that made a big difference in your week?

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Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

Let's Talk

- How does the friendship between Jonathan and David challenge our view of friendship today?
- Why do you think being a good friend often feels harder as we grow older?
- What is one small act you can do this week to show someone that they're not alone?
- What might it look like in your life to be a "Jonathan friend" to someone?
- How can we use the friendships we build to point others to the love of Jesus?
- Do you have a friend who has encouraged you in your relationship with Jesus Christ? If so, how has she/he done that?

Let's Act

Who can you reach out to this week to share coffee, a meal or even invite to Thanksgiving?

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