



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 11

**Lesson Title:** Jonathan and David's Friendship

**Take Home Point:** Friendship is loving others as you love yourself.

#### Warm-Up:

"What are friends for?" Have you ever heard anyone say that? It is most often a rhetorical question, given in response to heartfelt thanks for an act that seems above and beyond what might be expected of another person. I've had the opportunity of saying it to someone else on occasion, and it always brings me joy to know that I get to serve them in some way that demonstrates my love for them, whether just because or in their time of need. To help carry a burden, to be there when no words suffice, to do something special because you know what brings another happiness—these are the acts of a true friend.

**Read:** 1 Samuel 20

#### Observation (What happened?):

What promise did Jonathan compel David to make regarding his future and that of his family?

Why was Jonathan so concerned about David's life and well-being?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why might it have been hard at first for David to trust Jonathan?

How do you think David felt about the friendship Jonathan showed him? Was David a good friend?

#### Insight:

Three lessons in friendship stand out in this Bible account. First, friendship works both ways, whether with people or God. Just as Jonathan was there for David, a true friend is there in time of need. God wants us to be there when he needs us, too. And he does need us to accomplish his plan; that's how he designed it. Also, our friends want to be there for us when we need them; God does, too. Even more than our human friends, he knows exactly what we need and is able to provide it. Second, relationship is not necessarily friendship. David was acquainted with many people in the house of Saul, but only Jonathan was willing to help him. It's important to understand the distinction. Finally, friendship is revealed in hard times. Neither Jonathan nor David expected to see each other again, but it didn't change their friendship. Who's our best friend in our worst time? Jesus! Romans 5:8 tells us so. *"Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us."* That's a true friend!

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

Who needs your friendship right now to help them through a difficult time? Think about how you can be a good friend and take action to be there for them.

Who has God put in your life as a special friend? Thank him for providing a good friend.

What attitudes can you practice to discourage or prevent jealousy from poisoning your heart?