



**February 2, 2025**

**The Shepherd King  
1 Samuel 18:1-4**

**Big Idea:** Friends are a gift from God and ultimately our desire for friendship is found in Him.

**Overview:** Immediately after David's triumph over Goliath, God gives him a forever friend. Jonathan, Saul's son and future heir to the throne, renounces his power and privilege and becomes a soul friend to David. Journeying with David, Jonathan saves his life multiple times and takes enormous personal and relational risks to love David.

As we live in a very isolated, lonely, and disconnected world, David and Jonathan's friendship serves as an inspiring and challenging example of the soul connection we long for. This friendship, to be known, loved and connected, is innate to the human experience. The New Testament presents Jesus as a friend of sinners, and one who dies for his friends.

It is friendship with God, through Jesus Christ, where we find our ultimate home.

**Life Group Objectives:**

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week's message and passage or dig into the series you are going through as a group. When we all track together on the sermon series, we learn and grow together as a church.
2. We desire for you to have the Bible play a key role in your time together. Please have people open up Bibles, seeking clarity, asking questions, sharing insights, and allowing it to guide your time together.
3. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?

**Conversation starters:**

- What is your definition of a good friend?
- If you could travel to one place with a good friend, who would you bring and where would you go?

**Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

**Read Scripture:** 1 Samuel 18:1-4

**Questions for Discussion:**

**1. What friendship is – 1 Samuel 18:1-4**

- Jonathan and David were "knit" together. Have you ever experienced this type of deep and close friendship with someone? What made this friendship special?
- Jonathan and David made a covenant together. What is the difference between covenantal friendship and conditional friendship?
- Jonathan sacrificed greatly for David (see vs. 4). What does sacrifice look like in your friendships you have right now?

**2. Why you need it – 1 Samuel 23:15-18**

- Why do you think our world is struggling with an isolation and loneliness crisis?
- What does it look like to help a friend “find strength in God” (vs. 16)?
- What access do you give other people in your life, close friends and this Life Group, to speak into the varying situations in your life?
- What happens to us if we try to live an isolated and self-sufficient life without friends or vulnerability?

### **3. Where you can find it – Luke 7:34, John 15:12-14**

- How important is this Life Group to you for friendship and connection? What are some practical ways that we can increase the level of connection and commitment in our group?
- What does it mean when Jesus is said to be a “friend of sinners?” Why was this so controversial?
- Revival is when people experience a deep friendship with God through Jesus Christ. How would you describe your relationship with God?

### **Listening to God:**

- The Lord speaks, and we need to discern. What are some key themes that have emerged in your time together? What is the Holy Spirit impressing upon us?