

A DEEP FRIENDSHIP (DAVID AND JONATHAN)



**1 Samuel 16:12–23;
19:1–7; 20:30–34**

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **John 13:35**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

Alan had finally gathered the courage to ask Hilary to the prom. They had been friends for a long time, and he admired her in so many ways. Hilary thanked Alan for the invitation, but it was clear she was holding out for another offer. She was waiting for Ryan, the quarterback of the football team. Later, after the prom, Hilary found herself in some compromising situations with Ryan's friends. Hilary was sorry that she had not chosen to go with Alan.

In general, what are the standards for friendship among youth? Personality? Popularity? Athleticism? Talent? Wealth? These might serve as the criterion for some in choosing friends. However, teens need friends who offer love and trust.

Read 1 Samuel 16:12–23; 19:1–7; 20:30–34. Although David had entered Saul's court bringing much pleasure

and comfort to King Saul, he had fallen out of favor with the jealous king. Saul's son, Jonathan could have rejected David as well, based on the fact that David had been anointed to succeed Saul to the throne. But in fact, Jonathan loved David greatly, developing a friendship based on love and trust.

Your teenagers need godly examples that display in action that faith, trust, and love are bonds that cannot be broken in relationships.

Friends are critical in the lives of our teens. We can point them in the right direction of choosing friends who are more than just the teen idols at school. Most often it is those with humble characteristics that model the right qualities for a lasting friendship.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

The family discusses: **How do we choose our friends? If we put together a list of qualifications, what would be on the list? A family member says: David needed a good friend, and found one in Jonathan, the son of a king.**

Explore . . .

A family member reads 1 Samuel 16:12–23; 19:1–7; 20:30–34. Then, the family discusses: **What do you think solidified David and Jonathan's friendship? What was their friendship built upon? What does real loyalty look like in a friendship?**

Transform . . .

The family discusses: **By what standard do our friendships need to be evaluated? Do some changes need to be made? If so, what? Do we need to befriend some people who need our friendship, offering the character that God has offered us? Do we need to drop some friendships that aren't really friendships at all? What will you do?**

Pray that your family will express wisdom from God in developing relationships that may last a lifetime.