



Covenant Friendships
Pastor Hilary Harris 10.26.2025

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Ecclesiastes 4:9-12]

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

[Proverbs 27:9]

The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.

[Proverbs 27:17]

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

[1 Samuel 18 :1]

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself

[1 Samuel 18 :3]

And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.

[Proverbs 17:17]

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

[Matthew 18:15]

If another believersins against you, go privately and point out the offense If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

[Colossians 3:12-14]

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

[1 Samuel 23:14-18]

David stayed in the wilderness in strongholds, in the hill country of the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul searched for him every day, but God did not hand David over to him. ¹⁵ Now David became aware that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the Wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went [into the woods] to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God. He said to him, "Do not be afraid; the hand of my father Saul will not find you. You will be king over Israel and I will be second in command to you; my father Saul knows this too." So, the two of them made a covenant before the Lord; and David stayed at Horesh and Jonathan went to his house. You will be king over Israel and I will be second in command to you; my father Saul knows this too." So, the two of them made a covenant before the Lord; and David stayed at Horesh and Jonathan went to his house.

[1 Samuel 18:3]

And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt. Jonathan, commander of the Israel army, heir apparent, takes the royal garments off of himself, and clothes David with his princely attire, as a statement of honor, respect and identifying, there is a king in you. After that first meeting a lot of life happens. David is threatened, he is manipulated, their friendship is tested, they don't know if they'll see each other again, they make covenant again and again. And here he is hiding for his life and Jonathan reminds him, "There is still a king in you."

[Ecclesiastes 4:9-12]

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Applications for the Week:

Pastor Hilary acknowledged that many people carry wounds from past friendships. Are there any old hurts or disappointments in friendship that you are still carrying? What would it look like to invite God to heal those places this week?

Discussion Questions:

1. What actions did Jonathan take to show his commitment to David when they first became friends?
2. In the wilderness, how did Jonathan encourage David, and what did he remind him of?

- 3.** According to Matthew 18:15-17, what is the step-by-step process Jesus gives for handling offense between believers?
- 4.** Pastor Hilary mentioned that Jonathan and David made a covenant three times. Why was it necessary for them to renew their covenant repeatedly?
- 5.** Why might the idea of “covenant” in friendship feel uncomfortable or foreign to us today, and what does the story of Jonathan and David teach about the depth of biblical friendship?
- 6.** How does the process Jesus gives in Matthew 18 differ from how conflict is usually handled in our culture or even in churches? What is the goal of this process?
- 7.** When Jonathan finds David in the wilderness, he calls out David’s God-given identity and destiny. Why is it important for friends to remind each other of their calling, especially in hard times?
- 8.** Pastor Hilary mentioned that, “Kingdom culture is not cancel culture.” What does it mean to “cover and confront in love” instead of canceling someone?
- 9.** Covenant friendship means choosing unity and restoration, even when it’s uncomfortable. Is there a friendship in your life where you need to make a deliberate choice to pursue unity or forgiveness, rather than letting offense or distance grow?