

David – Jealousy and Friendship
April 21, 2024

As you engage in this discussion, follow the Spirit's leading and share your thoughts as you reflect on the message. Work through the discussion guide by reading Scripture and reflecting on a couple of questions and points from the message.

Opening Question

- When you were young, was there a friend you were jealous of? Why?
- Or, was there someone jealous of you? How did you handle the situation?

Read the following scriptures together:

1 Samuel 18:1-18

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. ² From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. ³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ 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.

⁵ Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well.

⁶ When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. ⁷ As they danced, they sang:

*"Saul has slain his thousands,
and David his tens of thousands."*

⁸ Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" ⁹ And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

¹⁰ The next day an evil^[a] spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand ¹¹ and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

¹² Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had departed from Saul. ¹³ So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. ¹⁴ In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him. ¹⁵ When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

Scriptures referenced:

1 Samuel 22:1-2, 1 Samuel 23:14, 1 Samuel 23:16-18, 1 Samuel 23:28, Ephesians 6:12

A FEW QUESTIONS TO PONDER DURING YOUR DISCUSSION:

- Did you learn something new from David's story this week?
- Talk about the friendship between Jonathan and David. How did that part of the story impact you?
- Is there anything from the message that challenged or frustrated you this week?
- How did the message encourage you?

A FEW POINTS AND QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

Saul became paranoid that David would take his kingdom; he kept him close and ultimately tried to kill him. Jonathan sacrificed his family's dynasty to help his friend David.

- From the message, what did you notice about Saul's character?
- From the message, what do you notice about Jonathon's character?
- From the message, what do you notice about David's character?
- What did you notice about God?
- Why do you think the Bible records the depth of David and Jonathan's friendship? What purpose does it serve?

Saul divided his family and his nation all for the power to shape the future, and what he missed was *what God was actually doing*. The most powerful part of this story is when Johnathan says David will be king. To have eyes like Jonathon, to see what God is doing, will cost us personally. It requires us to stop fighting and open up space for God's presence. Instead of trying to win we pray, study, worship, confess, forgive, and serve, because those practices open space for transformation for us and others. Only by opening up space do we become aware of God's presence. We respond and surrender only when we are aware of God's presence.

- Talk about how you can open up space for God's presence.

CLOSING: PRAY FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR GROUP

Have each member write a card with a prayer request for themselves as a reflection of this message. Pass cards around so each member of your group has a card to pray for a member of the group this week.