

1 Samuel 18, 20, 23

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 ESV

Readings this week:

S 1 Samuel 18
M 1 Samuel 19
T 1 Samuel 20
W 1 Samuel 21
Th 1 Samuel 25
F 1 Samuel 30
S 2 Samuel 1

David inspired very strong feelings in people – either good or bad. In your group, discuss your ideas about what makes a good friend, and what makes an enemy.

Read together 1 Samuel 18:1-9. What is the difference between the ways Saul and Jonathan react?



Growing hatred

What made Saul begin to hate David? (1 Samuel 18:5-9, 28-29)

What was the result of his hatred? (1 Samuel 19:1,10)

What sort of thing does hatred lead to?

What effect does it have on the person who hates?



Growing friendship

What was it about David that Jonathan loved? (1 Samuel 17:32, 34-37, 45-47)

What did Jonathan give David? (1 Samuel 18:4)

What did he risk for David? (1 Samuel 19:1-2, 20:27-34)

In submitting to God's choice of king, what did Jonathan give up? (1 Samuel 20:31)

How does this compare with your relationship with Jesus?

Read 1 Samuel 23:14-18. What do Jonathan's words tell us about the way Jonathan felt about David?

What do we learn about what Jonathan thought about himself and his family?

What does this lesson teach you about how to be a good friend?

What does it teach you about the effect your actions have on those you don't like?

In 2 Samuel 1:26, David says that Jonathan's love was greater than any woman's love. What do you think David meant when he said that?

Today, some people assume that if men love each other they must be gay. What does the Bible say about gay

relationships? Look at 1 Corinthians 6:9.

We know that David was a man after God's own heart. What does that tell you about the relationship he had with Jonathan?

Digging Deeper

More about friends

If you didn't read how Saul and Jonathan died in lesson 29, read 1 Samuel 31. Although David had suffered at the hands of Saul, he was almost as grieved at his death as he was over the death of Jonathan. Read David's lament when he heard of the deaths. 2 Samuel 1:17-27

Look up these passages about friends and think how they apply to firstly David and secondly, to you and some of your friends.

- Proverbs 17:17
 - Proverbs 18:24
 - Proverbs 19:4
 - John 15:13-14. So who is the best friend we can have?
 - And what is the best way we can treat our friends?
- 1 Corinthians 3:4-7

A good friend is one who listens and shares things and is always there for you when you need them. Jesus has said he will be our friend if we do what he asks us to. What does he ask of you?

Thank God for the friends he has given you.