

Aim of lesson

To see the destructive nature of hatred and the cost of true friendship. In particular, the cost of offering our friendship to our king.

Bible background

1 Samuel 18:1-9; 20; 23:16-18; 2 Samuel 1:17-27.

Outline of lesson

'and David his ten thousands'

Ask the class what, for them, makes a friend and what an enemy. Read together 1 Samuel 18:1-9 to see the two very different reactions of Saul and Jonathan to David's victory over Goliath and his subsequent success.

Saul's growing hatred and Jonathan's growing friendship

Go through the first section in the workbook together, filling in the account of David's marriage to Michal and Saul's attempts to kill him. Leviticus 19:17 may be useful for showing that God commands us not to hate.

Now go through the second section, bringing out how Jonathan's friendship for David affected Jonathan's character and actions. From 1 Samuel 18:1 we learn that it was the things that David said to Saul in chapter 17 that caused Jonathan to love David – look at verses 32, 34-37 and 45-47).

Our relationship with Jesus, our king

After finishing the section on Jonathan, you may like to go through the questions again filling in the box on the right-hand side with the parallel ways in which we submit to our king. For example:

- Loving him for the victory he has achieved.
- Giving him our possessions and what we value.
- Risking everything for him, even life.
- Giving up ruling our own lives and submitting to his kingship.
- Being prepared to stand apart and admit he is our king even while it is not clear to everyone else that he is the king.

Using these points, discuss with the class how our friendship for the king changes our character and actions.

Digging deeper

More about friends

David's lament after the death of Saul and Jonathan shows how much he loved both of them. There are further references to true friendship and friendship with Jesus.

Relevance to our lives

Ask the class to think of situations in which they could react to something good that happens to a friend; either with jealousy, like Saul, or with delight, like Jonathan. You may like to ask each of them to think of one such situation during the week and report back at the beginning of next week's lesson.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us friends. Thank you especially that we can have you and the Lord Jesus as our friends. Help us to befriend others and to accept Lord Jesus as king of our lives now.

Other suggestions for activities

- A drama based on 1 Samuel 23:14-28 could be planned using the class' own words.
- The class could split into two groups One group could write a prayer which might have been written by David thanking God for Jonathan. The other group could write a prayer that might have been written by Jonathan thanking God for David.