

**Agape House of Worship**  
**Wednesday Bible Study – Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

**Study Series: A Man After God's Own Heart**

**Part 3: David and Jonathan**

**Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:1–4; 20:1–42**

**Teacher: Pastor Hephzibah Akintobi**

*Key Theme: Covenant friendship; God's provision of relationships in times of trial.*

### **I. Definitions**

**Friendship:** A deep, mutual relationship rooted in love, trust, and shared purpose. The bond between David and Jonathan shows that friendship is more than companionship—it's a soul connection 1 Samuel 18:1.

**Loyalty:** Faithful commitment to someone through good times and bad. Jonathan remained loyal to David even when it cost him his comfort and his position as heir to the throne.

### **II. What is Covenant Friendship?**

Covenant friendship is a deep, spiritual and emotional relationship rooted in loyalty, love, and commitment. This friendship is not casual, not rooted in personal ambition, (not based only on affection)—**they are forged through mutual trust, selflessness, purpose and shared faith in God.** They mirror the biblical idea of covenant: a sacred, binding agreement, often sealed with sacrifice or symbol. *1 Samuel 18:3, 1 Samuel 20:1, 13-17, 42*

Jonathan, son of Saul, formed a deep bond with David, which was sealed with a covenant. He gave David his robe, armor, sword, and belt—symbols of trust, inheritance, and honor.

### **III. God's Provision Of Friendship in Times of Trial.**

Covenant friendships often arise or are tested in *seasons of adversity*, where God provides strength and protection through another person.

**Key Insight:** One of God's greatest provisions to David was Jonathan, Saul's own son. This friendship wasn't superficial; it was deep, sacrificial, and ordained by God. Jonathan even gave David his robe, armor, and weapons—symbols of kingship and favor.

*1 Samuel 20:1–42* – Jonathan risks his life to protect David from Saul's anger. Despite knowing that David would eventually be king instead of him. **Jonathan chooses loyalty to God's plan and David's life over his own status.**

*Proverbs 17:17* "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."

*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10* "Two are better than one... If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

**Question: What are your various experiences about friendship? Share.**

### **IV. Identifying Covenant Friendship**

#### **A, Good Covenant friendships are marked by:**

- a. **Christ-Centered Foundation:** The relationship is built on shared faith, love for God, and commitment to His will. Amos 3:3, Ecclesiastes 4:12 **Spiritual connection** – "Knit souls" (1 Sam. 18:1)
- b. **Mutual Love, Sacrifice and honor** – friends are, willing to sacrifice for your good. Jonathan gave David his royal garments (v. 4) John 15:13,
- c. **Loyalty and truth** – Friends protect each other's purpose, speak the truth in love, celebrate others calling, with no competition, Hebrews 10:24, 1 Sam. 20:32, Romans 10:12 Ephesians 4:15.

d. **Mutual trust and confidentiality** – They shared secrets and are vulnerable. 1 Sam. 20:16-17)  
*Romans 12:10 KJV* “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one

**B. Marks of Wrong/ bad covenant friendship**

a. **Control and Manipulation:** One person dominates the other emotionally, spiritually, or mentally. Fear, guilt or flattery is used to maintain the relationship.

b. **Unhealthy Soul Ties Deep:** emotional entanglement beyond healthy boundaries, inability to function or make decisions apart from the other person.

c. **Distraction from God’s Purpose:** The relationship diverts you from your calling, prayer life, or obedience to God.

d. **Jealousy and Competition:** Constant comparison, rivalry, or subtle sabotage. Praise is rare, but criticism is frequent.

**V. Benefits of good Covenant Friendship**

1. **Spiritual encouragement** – Encourage one another and build each other up. They help walk in God’s plan. 1 Samuel 23:16, 1Thess.5:11
2. **Emotional support** – Especially in lonely or dangerous seasons. *Ecclesiastes 4:9–10* .
3. **Divine protection** – God uses people to shield and guide us.
4. **Confirmation of purpose** Jonathan affirmed David’s kingship 1 Sam. 23:17
5. **Accountability and Growth.** Godly friends challenge us to grow deeper in faith, speak truth, and live with integrity—like David did even under pressure. *Proverbs 27:17*
6. **Shared Joy and Burdens.** Godly friends rejoice with us when we win, and walk with us when we are weary. The friendship supports God’s calling on each other’s lives.

**Question 2: Have you ever “taken the bullet” for any friend? Romans 5:7-8 Share**

**VI. Jesus: Our Ultimate Covenant Friend.**

Jonathan’s covenant with David foreshadows Jesus’ covenant with us. Jesus loves us sacrificially and remains loyal through every trial.

Scriptures: *John 15:13-15* – “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends... I have called you friends.” *Hebrews 13:5* , *Isaiah 41:10* – “

Just like Jonathan stripped himself of royal garments to honor David, Jesus stripped Himself of divine privilege to clothe us in righteousness. *Philippians 2:6-8*; *Isaiah 61:10*

**Summary:**

Aspect	Jonathan & David	Jesus & Us
Covenant Made	1 Sam. 18:3	Luke 22:20
Love & Loyalty	1 Sam. 20:17	John 15:13
Protection in Trial	1 Sam. 20:42	2 Thess. 3:3
Sacrifice	1 Sam. 18:4	Philippians 2:8
Eternal Bond	1 Sam. 20:23	Romans 8:38-39

**Conclusion:** Friends are a manifestation of God’s care. Ultimately, Jesus is our truest friend—always present, always faithful. Be a friend to someone today.