

THE FAITH- FULL FRIENDS

David and
Jonathan
1 Samuel 18:1–9;
20:18–42
1015 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives us faithful friends.

BIBLE VERSE

A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God gives us faithful friends.

LAW & GOSPEL

Hatred and envy shatter relationships.

Because God first loved me and gave me His Son, I am able to love and care for others.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

The Bible tells us David and Jonathan were such close friends that “the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David” (1 Samuel 18:1). Saul’s insane jealousy of David tests their friendship to the limit. David and Jonathan establish a plan to alert David if Saul continues to seek his life. Sadly, Saul’s anger remains unchecked. Jonathan, faithful to God’s will, warns David to flee from the king.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read 1 Samuel 18:1–9; 20:18–42 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read 1 Samuel 18:10–16 and study notes in *TL SB* for more context.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Construction paper, tissue-paper squares, Jesus stickers
- Finger Jell-O, heart- or people-shaped (gingerbread men) cookie cutters
- Puppet
- Paper plates, stickers

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs, using music found in the digital resource center or your own favorite songs.

PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for our friends. Help us learn how to be a good friend too. Thank You for being our best friend by taking our punishment on the cross. Amen.

SAY

- Welcome, friends! I'm glad you are here. Today, we're going to talk about friends.
- What are the top five qualities of a good friend? How do you know someone is your friend? In our story today, we will hear about two friends.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative as you read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Assign three groups of children to represent each name mentioned in the narrative: Saul, Jonathan, and David. As you go through the narrative, have each group stand up and do an action each time the person's name is mentioned (e.g., shoot an arrow for Jonathan; make a scary, mad face for Saul; play a harp for David; or let students decide on the actions to use).
- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Have the children send a warning with paper airplanes to imitate Jonathan using arrows to warn David about Saul's plan. Have each child write out a "warning" on a piece of paper, and then turn it into a paper airplane. After that, pair up students and instruct them to send their warnings to each other across the room.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- What did Jonathan give his friend David?
- What did Jonathan do for his friend David?
- How can you share Jesus with your friends who don't know Him?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion, using these key points.

- Jonathan gave David gifts of a sword, a belt, a bow with arrows, and a beautiful coat. More important, he gave David his friendship.
- Since Jonathan was Saul's son, that made him a prince. He would have been the next king. But Jonathan knew that God wanted David to be the next king. He loved God and David so much that he willingly gave up his birthright to go along with God's plan.
- Jesus comes from the line of David. By preserving David's life, God was preserving His plan of salvation.
- God loves us even more than Jonathan loved David. God loves us so much, in fact, that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to save us from our sins.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus, our faithful friend and Savior, humbled and sacrificed Himself so that we could have eternal life with Him.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Pause to let children answer the questions in italics.

The Bible tells us about two good friends. Their names were Jonathan and David. David was a shepherd boy. He killed the giant who wanted to hurt God's people. Jonathan was King Saul's son. After David won against Goliath, King Saul said, "Come live in my palace, David. You can be one of my soldiers." So David went to live in King Saul's house.

Prince Jonathan was a soldier too. He and David became friends. *How does it feel to have a good friend?*

Jonathan was happy David was his friend. He wanted to give David some things that were special to him. So he gave David a sword, a belt, a bow with arrows, and a beautiful coat! Jonathan said, "Let's always be friends and help each other."

In the palace, David played his harp for the king. The music made King Saul feel happy and peaceful. *Do you like to listen to music? When does music make you feel calm and peaceful?*

But later, King Saul started to get jealous of David. David was a good soldier in his army, and everyone liked him. King Saul thought the people liked David more than they liked him. He tried to hurt David. Prince Jonathan wanted to help his friend. He told his father, "Don't hurt my friend, David. He loves God and he has always been good to you." He told David his father was angry with him and he should

go hide. So David left the palace. He couldn't live near his friend Jonathan anymore. *How do you help a friend who is in trouble?*

Then, Jonathan begged his father to be nice to David. Saul said he would. This made Jonathan so happy. David could come back! But King Saul didn't keep his promise. Soon, he got angry again, and David had to run away again. Jonathan was sad because he missed his friend. He worried that David wasn't safe. One day, David came back to see Jonathan. They came up with a plan to keep David safe. While David hid, Jonathan talked to his father, the king. He found out that King Saul still wanted to hurt David.

So Jonathan went out to the field where David was hiding behind a big rock. He shot three arrows and told his servant to get them. He shot the arrow far past the servant. This was a sign to David that he should run far away because it was not safe at the palace. Before David left, he and Jonathan hugged each other and cried. They promised to stay friends forever and to help each other's families.

God gives us friends too. Best of all, God sent Jesus to be our friend and Savior. Jesus hears our prayers. He loves to help us. He promises to be with us always. He forgives our sins. Someday, we will live with our friend Jesus forever! *How does it feel to have Jesus as your friend?*

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

After David killed Goliath, King Saul had David come and live in his house. David loved King Saul and fought hard to protect and help him. Saul had a son named Jonathan. Jonathan was brave like David. He loved God and did great things with God's help. When Jonathan saw David kill Goliath, he and David became best friends.

When David went out to fight for Saul, God helped him beat the Philistines over and over. The people loved David and sang songs about him. That made Saul jealous and angry. He wanted to be the one they sang about. He started to think David would try to kill him and take his place as king.

That feeling got even worse when the evil spirit came on Saul. David played his harp to make Saul feel better, but once Saul threw his spear at David to kill him. David got away, and Jonathan went to talk to his dad. He told Saul there was no reason to be afraid of David—he should be thanking him instead. David killed Goliath when everyone else was too scared to fight him. David fought hard to help Saul beat the Philistines. Saul listened to Jonathan this time.

But Saul kept thinking that David was only pretending to love him. He thought David was really waiting for a chance to kill him. When Jonathan tried to defend David again,

Saul became angry and tried to kill Jonathan too.

Jonathan was really upset that his father was treating David so badly. He told David he needed to run away or Saul would kill him. The two friends hugged each other and cried. David went up into the mountains and hid in caves. Jonathan visited David in the mountains too. He helped David find strength in God's promises. He knew David would be the next king, and he wanted to be at his side to help him.

King Saul brought the army of Israel into the mountains to hunt for David to kill him. Two times, David had the chance to kill Saul, but he let him go because God had anointed Saul as king. David would not take the throne until God chose to give it to him.

Finally, the Philistines came up against Israel, and Saul had to fight them without David's help. The Philistines fought so hard that Saul's men ran away in fear. Jonathan stayed to fight and was killed. Saul got badly hurt and killed himself in the battle. When David heard the news, he was very, very sad.

God protected David and kept him safe from King Saul. But even though Saul mistreated David, David still respected him and saved his life because God had chosen Saul to be king.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

Secret Codes

Sometimes, close friends have a secret code that only they understand. David and Jonathan had one so that David knew whether Saul wanted to kill him or if he was safe. Divide the story into parts, and have kids work with a partner to create a secret code to tell parts of the story.

3-15-4-5
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
C-O-D-E

Action Chant

Say each line and model the action for children to copy.

Jesus is my special friend. (*Point to heaven.*)

He shows me how to be a friend. (*Open hands.*)

I have lots and lots of friends. (*Point to many friends.*)

I hug my friends when they are sad. (*Give hugs.*)

I laugh with friends when they are happy. (*Laugh.*)

I play with friends and share. (*Hold hands out.*)

Showing love for my friends shows love for Jesus too. (*Point up.*)



Cards for Friends

Fold construction paper in half to make a card. On the front, draw a large heart. Give children tissue-paper squares to glue to the heart. On the inside of the card, attach a Jesus sticker, and have children draw a picture for a friend. Ask children to name some friends, including neighbors and church members. Talk about how friends show love for one another.



Have children give the card to a friend.

Act Out the Story

Group children into pairs. Assign one child in each pair to be David and the other to be Jonathan. Tell students you will stand when talking about Saul; they should stand and do the actions described whenever their character is mentioned. Tell the story, using the narrative as a guide.



Friendship Snack

Serve finger Jell-O cut in heart or people shapes. Have children work together to hand out the snack. Talk about how God gives us friends.



Puppet

Puppet is crying because his friend was mean to him. He asks children if they've ever felt sad because a friend was mean. Let children share. Say, **Sometimes, friends don't treat us kindly. But we all have a friend who will never be mean to us and who always loves us. Do you know who? Jesus! Jesus loves us all the time!**



Friend Frisbee

Each child will need a paper plate, markers, and stickers. Show children how to poke a hole in middle of plate and cut the inside circle out, leaving the rim intact. Give help as needed. Add stickers to the rim and decorate it. Toss the rim as a Frisbee back and forth to a friend, telling each other "Jesus loves you" as you do so.



LEAVE

SAY

Our lesson today tells us that sometimes being a good friend is really hard. Jesus is our very best friend, who died on the cross to save us from our sin! Because He loves and cares for us so much, we can go and be good friends to others too.

PRAY

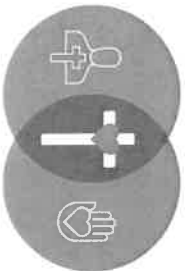
Dear Jesus, thank You for being our divine faithful friend. As we go about our week, please help us be a good friend to others. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

THE FAITH-FULL FRIENDS

LESSON 11

1 Samuel 18:1–9; 20:18–42

GOD GIVES US FAITHFUL FRIENDS.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

Jesus, my great Friend, gave His life to guarantee my eternal life with Him.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can serve God and others by being a faithful friend as I share God's Word with them.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can consider how the narrative reveals an example of godly friendship and connect that friendship to God's love for me in Christ.

YOUTH

I can relate David and Jonathan's godly friendship to the love God gives me to share with others.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God gives us faithful friends.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God gives me friends.

BIBLE VERSE

A friend loves at all times.

Proverbs 17:17

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

The Bible tells us David and Jonathan were such close friends that "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David" (1 Samuel 18:1). Saul's insane jealousy of David tests their friendship to the limit. David and Jonathan establish a plan to alert David if Saul continues to seek his life. Sadly, Saul's anger remains unchecked. Jonathan, faithful to God's will, warns David to flee from the king.

TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ *On the Go*—How did Jonathan show that he was not jealous that God had chosen David to be king?
- ▶ *At Medtime*—What sinful things did King Saul do? What good things did David and Jonathan do for each other? How is God at work in this story?
- ▶ *Something to Do*—Make a list of characteristics that show someone is a good friend (honesty, loyalty, sense of humor). Circle the qualities that David and Jonathan showed toward each other. Place a cross over the ones that Jesus shows you.
- ▶ *Before Bed*—Jesus is our friend and grants us loving friendships. Have each family member name a good friend God has given him or her. Pray together, thanking God for the gift of these wonderful friends.



Leader Devotion LESSON 11
THE FAITH-FULL FRIENDS—DAVID AND JONATHAN
1 SAMUEL 18:1-9; 20:18-42

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives us faithful friends.

BIBLE VERSE

A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17

LAW & GOSPEL

Hatred and envy shatter relationships.

Because God first loved me and gave me His Son, I am able to love and care for others.

DEVOTION

Think about your best friend. How did the two of you first meet? What kinds of things do you and your best friend enjoy doing together? What kinds of plans do you two have for the future?

David and Jonathan shared an incredible friendship. As the son of King Saul, Jonathan was to be the heir to the throne. Instead, Jonathan recognized that God had appointed David to be the next king. Even more, Jonathan defended David from Saul's attacks. "Give thanks to the Lord for the friends He has blessed you with and the wonderful way He has protected you. Pray to grow in the grace of giving thanks. By grace, God treats all of us infinitely better than we deserve" (TLSB, p. 470).

Pray: Lord, thank You for faithful friends who help me to trust in Your plan for me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

LESSON 11 OPENING

THE FAITH-FULL FRIENDS—DAVID AND JONATHAN

See the friends in this picture? *Show the picture to the students.* Do you have a really good friend like they do? Do you have someone at school, church, or in your neighborhood who is really important to you? It is fun to have a friend. You can play together, learn together, and do all kinds of things together. It makes life a little more exciting. Having a friend is a gift from God. Listen in our Bible lesson to the story of two friends and how they were a blessing to each other.

Why do you think God gives us friends? God gives us friends to take care of us. We are encouraged and built up by good friends. But there is something important to remember about friendship: if you have a friend, you also have to remember to be a friend to that person. You can't just have your friend encourage you all the time and then ignore your friend when he or she needs encouragement. Friendship is a two-way street.

The apostle Paul made many friends on his missionary journeys. In the city of Philippi, Paul and his companion, Silas, were mistreated and thrown into jail. But when they were released, the writer of the Book of Acts says "they went out of the prison and visited Lydia," who was one of their new friends and fellow believers in Jesus. "And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed" (Acts 16:40).

Later, Paul writes a letter to the Philippian Church. He tells them, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you. . . . I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3, 7–8). Do you hear how Paul talks about his friends in Philippi? He encouraged them before he left, but now he expresses how he is encouraged by them! And at the end of the letter, he encourages them with a prayer that we use often in the Church today: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (4:7).

God gives us friends—and He gives us as friends to others—so we can encourage one another in Christ. We can remind one another of God's love. We can tell our friends about Jesus—how God became a man and lived a sinless life on earth, then died on the cross, defeating sin and Satan, and rose from the dead, defeating the power of death for us.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for the gift of friendship in our lives. Help us to encourage one another in the love of Christ every day. In His name we pray. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

1 Samuel 18:1–9; 20:18–42

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives us faithful friends.

FAITH FOCUS

The Eighth Commandment

LAW & GOSPEL

Hatred and envy shatter relationships.

Because God first loved me and gave me His Son, I am able to love and care for others.

BIBLE VERSE

A friend loves at all times.
Proverbs 17:17

VISUAL HELPS

Picture of two friends

THE FAITH-FULL FRIENDS—DAVID AND JONATHAN

Unit 5, Lesson 11

Best Friends

God gives us faithful friends. Faithful friends love one another. They are loyal, sacrificing, giving, and forgiving.

Directions: In the left-hand column below, write a few words to explain how David and Jonathan showed these qualities to each other. In the right-hand column, write a few words that show how Jesus, our very best Friend, shows these qualities to you.

	<i>David and Jonathan</i>	<i>Jesus</i>
Loving		
Loyal		
Sacrificing		
Giving		
Forgiving		