

5. Reread the first Eugene Peterson quote found in the sermon outline. Why are spiritual friendships so significant to our spiritual growth?

6. Think back to how David shares his fears with Jonathan and how they both share their feelings with each other. How would you (or have you) benefited from sharing your fears and feelings with a spiritual friend?

7. How can you overcome some of the obstacles in the way of building deeper spiritual friendships.

8. Looking back over this week's sermon, reading and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

SERIES: The David Story: Finding Strength in God (1 Samuel)

SERMON 6: "Friends"

TEXT: 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:1-4, 40-42; 23:15-18; 2 Samuel 2:25-26

DATE: June 13/14, 2015

SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP

"Friendship is a much underestimated aspect of spirituality. It's every bit as significant as prayer and fasting. Like the sacramental use of water and bread and wine, friendship takes what's common in human experience and turns it into something holy." (Eugene Peterson)

1. Spiritual friends _____ wholehearted devotion to God.
1 Samuel 18:1-4

2. Spiritual friends willingly _____ for each other.
1 Samuel 18:3-4; 23:17

Daily Bible reflection is one of the most impactful spiritual disciplines you can practice throughout the week to deepen your relationship with Christ. Commit to using [The Story of 1 Samuel: A 40-Day Guided Journey through 1 Samuel](#) on your own or as a family this week and throughout this series. **You can pick up a Guided Journey document each weekend in the Commons or download an e-version from fiveoakchurch.org/dailylife.**

SMALL GROUP HOMEWORK & DISCUSSION GUIDE

1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:1-4, 40-42; 23:15-18; 2 Samuel 2:25-26

"Friendship with David complicated Jonathan's life enormously. He risked losing his father's favor and willingly sacrificed his own royal future. But neither the risk nor the loss deterred him: he became and stayed David's friend." (Eugene Peterson)

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

3. Spiritual friends let each other _____.
1 Samuel 20:1-4, 40-42; 2 Samuel 2:25-26

Spiritual friends share their _____ and their _____.

"If you don't realize your deep need for brothers and sisters in Christ to walk with you through life, not just for the good times, but to share the deepest parts of your life, then you may have one of two spiritual problems. The first problem would be that you don't realize that you're in a battle—a battle for your heart. You're oblivious to the battle that is raging all around you. This is a tragedy, because it necessarily means that you're losing the battle. Another problem would be that you're in the battle, but you're not fighting it God's way. God's way is in community." (Matt Woodley)

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Describe the relationship you had with one of your closest friends in childhood.

3. Looking at the relationship of Jonathan and David (1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20; 23:15-18; 2 Samuel 2:25-26), how would you explain the difference between spiritual friendship and regular friendships?

4. How can you be a spiritual friend to someone you know who is struggling in their faith?

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