

INTRO

What is a favorite memory you have of interacting with a childhood friend?

IDEA 1

The main verse that was highlighted in the sermon today was 1 Sam 23:16 - *“Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God.”*

Through the example of Jonathan’s friendship with David, we see that:

- Being a friend who shows up to encourage someone to find strength in the Lord can be risky and costly.
- A friend’s presence can sometimes be more powerful than words
- A great friend helps us see beyond our hurt, frustration, and disappointment to the unseen work of God and how that fits into the larger story God is telling.

What do you appreciate most about Jonathan’s friendship with David?

When has being a good friend been risky or costly to you?

Why do you think presence can be more powerful than words?

What could it sound like for you in a conversation with a friend to point them towards the unseen work of God in the midst of their hurt, frustration and disappointment?

IDEA 2

“We all need a friend who can encourage us to stay strong in our faith in God.

We all need to be a friend who can encourage others to stay strong in their faith in God.”

What does it look like to identify and pursue friendship with someone who will encourage you to stay strong in your faith in God?

How can we become the kind of friend who encourages others to stay strong in their faith in God?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Encourage your group to share testimonies of where friends in their lives have encouraged them to stay strong in their faith.

Thank God for these friends and pray blessing over them.

Also, provide space to pray for those who long for deeper friendships or who are in need of encouragement.

APPLICATION

There were three application opportunities that were shared as part of the sermon:

- Pursue your friendship with Jesus
- Pursue someone older
- Don't believe the lies of the enemy

Which of these are you drawn to apply in your life at the moment? Why?

What's a next step that you can take in response?